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Win a Lotus Elise

Details on page 10

IN SECTION TWO



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE  
The Spam relaunch

## Howard fires prison chief over debacle

Labour in scapegoat charge

HEATHER MILLS  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Derek Lewis, the head of the Prison Service, was sacked yesterday after the damning inquiry into the Parkhurst escape, amid claims that he was being "scapegoated" for the errors of the Home Secretary.

Michael Howard was facing resignation calls from both main opposition parties last night, as Mr Lewis went onto the offensive, accusing the Home Secretary of political interference and of blurring the lines of responsibility.

He took the rare step of publishing his letter after Mr Howard had told the House that Sir John "has not found that any policy decision of mine, directly or indirectly, caused the escape" from Parkhurst.

Mr Howard emphasised in the Commons that Sir John had said that "responsibilities ultimately reach Prisons Board level and that the criticism stops there." He said later: "If these criticisms had been made of me, I would have gone but they were not... You have to look at what, and at whom, the criticisms were directed."

But Jack Straw, Labour's home affairs spokesman, said he could find not any references in the report which cleared Mr Howard from blame and added: "The Secretary of State and his fellow ministers have interfered daily in the running and operation of the Prisons Service."

"Given the state of the Prisons Service today, the way in which it has been run ragged by continual ministerial interference, the constant changes of policy, will you not now understand that if anyone is to go, it must be you?"

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrats' home affairs spokesman, said: "How is the sacking of Derek Lewis supposed to discharge all ministerial responsibility for the appalling state of affairs? Who was he reporting to, sometimes several times a day, but the Home Secretary?"

Mr Howard rejected "absolutely" allegations of ministerial interference. "It is



Defiant: Derek Lewis hit back swiftly after his dismissal

essential, if I am to be properly accountable to this House and this country, that I am properly informed about what happens in our prisons."

Last night the Home Office said Mr Lewis's severance package was being negotiated. But last April, the former television executive had already been put on probation by Mr Howard, following a wave of criticism engulfing the Prisons Service.

There was not only the Whitmoor and Parkhurst debacles but the suicide in Winslow Green of Fred West, accused of the Gloucestershire murders, riots at Brixton, and the

Learmont: The main points

■ The highest risk prisoners should be housed in a purpose-built high security jail.

■ Parkhurst should be downgraded as soon as possible.

■ Armed response units should be set up for prisons.

■ The director-general of the Prison Service should have regular contact with those with operational responsibilities.

■ Better training for all staff.

■ The director-general must balance keeping ministers informed with the need to run the Prison Service.

■ The Prison Service to take urgent action to cut down the mountain of paperwork.

Chapter of errors, page 3

Lewis letter, page 3

Another view, page 13

Leading article, page 18

Andrew Marr, page 19

accusations of murder against two prisoners on home leave and the embarrassment caused to the Home Secretary by the movement of IRA prisoners just after the ceasefire was announced.

Sir John Learmont's report said the Parkhurst breakout revealed "a chapter of errors at every level and a naivety that defies belief". The report into prison security in England and Wales found Parkhurst was "totally unsuitable" for housing some of the most difficult prisoners in the system. The report identified "lax and unprofessional procedures which made it relatively easy for the escapees to achieve their objective".

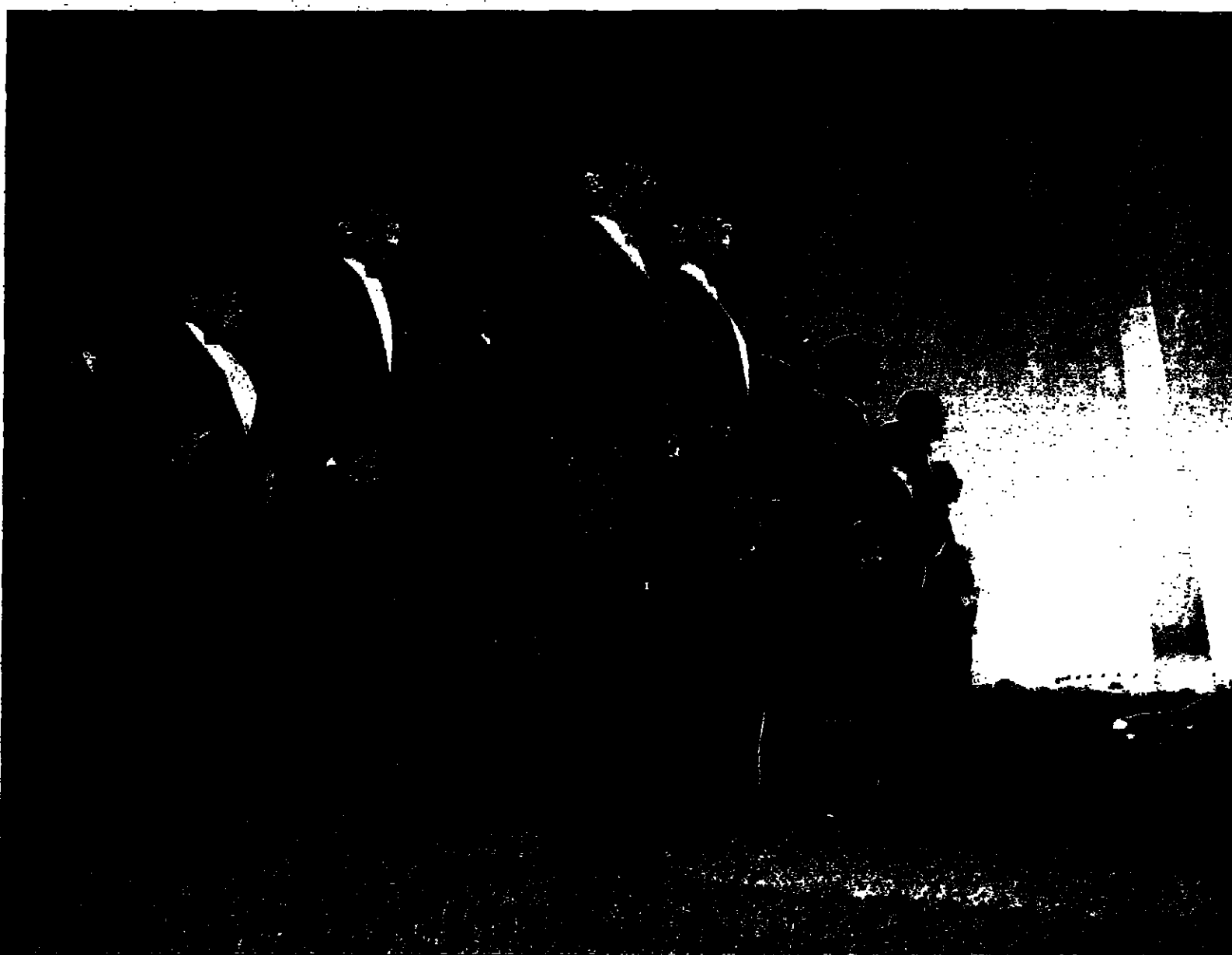
Sources suggested it was Mr Lewis's failure to act on a warning about Parkhurst from Judge Stephen Tumm, Chief Inspector of Prisons, that finally led to his dismissal.

Mr Lewis was told in April that his three-year contract - at £125,000 a year plus bonus, due to end in January 1996 - would not be renewed. He would then go on what has been described as a "one-more-escape-and-you're-out" monthly contract. In fact, the withering Learmont inquiry left no margin for further error.

The sacking of Mr Lewis introduces more instability into a service suffering from low morale, prison overcrowding and the difficulties of privatisation. The recent clampdown on home leave and the introduction of more austere regimes has led to increased tensions in overcrowded prisons. The Home Secretary's latest tough law-and-order prison package, which is expected to lead to an increase in the 52,000 prison population, will add to the problems.

The treatment of Mr Lewis, appointed in 1992 on a reforming agenda set by Lord Woolf, but who four months later found he was dealing with a different programme of locking up more, for longer, and in harsher conditions, means a successor may be hard to find. Richard Tili, Director of Custody, has stepped into the breach on a temporary basis.

## A million blacks take capital in their stride



Stepping out: Nation of Islam marchers making their way towards the Capitol in Washington yesterday

Photograph: Greg Gibson/AP

### Rupert Cornwell witnesses a collective rite of revivalism in Washington's biggest black rally since Martin Luther King

In a huge collective rite of revivalism, hundreds of thousands of African-Americans yesterday assembled at the foot of the US Capitol to reassert their identity as blacks, and vow to overcome the crisis besetting black America, "Atone-ment" was the order of the day for the Million Man March organised by Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam.

But as a crisp and sunny autumn day progressed, any fears the rally would fall victim to his often bitter black separatism abated. The mood was relaxed, even joyful, the air cut with cries of "God Bless the black man", and the aromas of barbecued beef and fried chicken.

Beforehand the mood of the establishment, black and white alike, had been cautious, alarmed that the largest black rally here since Martin Luther King gave his "I have a dream" speech in August 1963, would turn into a vehicle for the anti-Semitic, white-baiting views of Mr Farrakhan.

Speaking in Texas, President Clinton warned how "One mil-

lion men do not make right one man's message of malice and division" - an unmistakable allusion to Mr Farrakhan.

Earlier General Colin Powell, who along with several moderate black church, civil rights and political figures, had shunned the rally, said he wished "Someone else had had the idea of the March". Defending his absence, the possible presidential candidate said his presence on the speaker's podium would have given the Nation of Islam leader "more credibility than I would like".

More pertinently, Stevie Wonder, the singer, told the crowd stretching away towards the Washington monument that "this is bigger than one man". Marion Barry, the once disgraced Mayor of Washington, provided a personal cameo of the redemption theme. "Look at me, I have never been stronger and wiser," Mr Barry, who went to prison for drug use

before returning to win back his old job, declared. "If the Lord can do it for me, he can do it for you."

"The powers have not treated us well," declared the Rev Robert Smith as he gave the morning sermon, and a few placards attacked the police, savaged in the recent OJ Simpson trial: "Chicago police, Natural Born Killers," proclaimed a slogan. Elsewhere a gigantic portrait of OJ Simpson, floated over the crowd. But the atmosphere was festive and utterly unthreatening. The few whites who were in attendance felt entirely at ease.

Whether the March attained its statistical goal of only becoming clear later in the day. But by 10am Ben Chavis, the former head of the NAACP civil rights group, was claiming that a million people had already arrived and much of Washington - official and otherwise - had effectively shut down, leaving the

streets elsewhere in the city eerily empty. The Million Man March drew more than a sprinkling of black women to the Capitol grounds and the National Mall. Cora Masters Barry, wife of Marion Barry, declared from the podium: "This is the prettiest sight I've ever seen in my entire life."

"I pray my multiracial and international friends will view this gathering as an opportunity for all men, but particularly men of African-American her-

itage, to make changes in their lives for the better," said Rosa Parks, who became known as the "mother of the civil rights movement" after her refusal in 1955 to give up her bus seat in Montgomery, Alabama, became a cause celebre.

The ultimate hope, however, was reconciliation, a theme repeated time and again by President Clinton. Rejecting Mr Farrakhan's separatism, he urged the country to heal "the rift we see before us that is tearing at the heart of America" and unite the black and white worlds "at last into one America".

Atone-ment and gaiety, pages 10, 11

## Lottery money counted as public purse

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES  
Political Correspondent

Lottery funds are being counted as public spending, the Treasury admitted yesterday, in apparent contradiction of last week's pledge by William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary.

The admission came after a confidential letter revealed that the Welsh Office was treating lottery money as public sector funding and will fuel growing suspicions that lottery cash will

be increasingly used to help contain spending at a time when the Government wants to cut taxes.

A Treasury spokesman said yesterday: "Lottery funding counts as public spending and always has done. Lottery funds are not designed to replace existing funds. But when it comes to the stage of dispersal of lottery funds, they count as public spending."

Mr Waldegrave's undertaking last week came after the leak of a letter from Virginia Bottom-

ley, Secretary of State for National Heritage, urging him not to cut her budget in the light of lottery awards.

Mr Waldegrave made no pledge to protect Mrs Bottomley's departmental budget - but he promised that the so-called "additionality" principle would remain. The Government has repeatedly promised that lottery cash will not be used to fund its existing programmes.

But a letter from Jeff Pride, development director of the Welsh Tourist Board, to the Bre-

con Jazz Festival, withdraws a previous verbal offer of funding for an information centre, saying: "We are forced to take this course of action because we have been recently advised by the Welsh Office that lottery funding should be considered as public sector funding."

"Under our ministerial arrangements we are required to restrict total public sector funding to 50 per cent of project cost. This means that because lottery funding is deemed to be public sector funding we

have to enforce this 50 per cent rule in relation to your application."

Alex Cardle, the Liberal Democrat MP for Montgomery, mid-Wales, said the Welsh Office meant that lottery money could not be used as "match" funding for projects. "The result of this is that lottery money is being treated no differently from income tax or VAT by the Treasury."

He added: "Following last week's tiff between Virginia Bottomley and William Walde-

grave, it's clear that the Government has been misleading members of the public who buy lottery tickets into thinking that they were making voluntary and additional contributions to charities, sport and the arts."

The Welsh Office effectively conceded there was a contradiction of Mr Waldegrave's saying: "We are looking at the rules to see if there are ways of relaxing them as they apply to the Wales Tourist Board and lottery funding."

Grants defended, page 5

### IN BRIEF

**Maxwell 'bullied son'**  
Kevin Maxwell took to the witness stand for the first time yesterday to defend himself against charges of misusing pension funds, and described his father the late Robert Maxwell as a "bully" who used "verbal brutality". Page 4

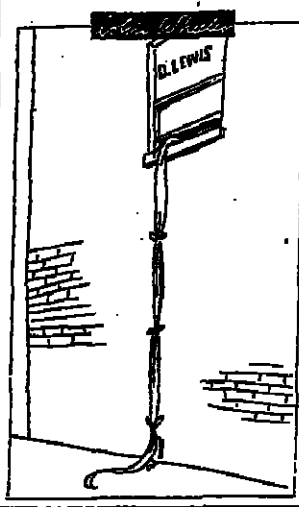
**West's 'two faces'**  
The victim of an alleged sex attack by Rosemary West told Winchester Crown Court that she "was like Jekyll and Hyde, one moment she had an aggressive voice and then the next she was being all motherly again". Page 2

**Bank braced for criticism**  
The Bank of England was bracing itself last night for a barrage of criticism from Singapore, which today publishes its version of the collapse last February of Barings, the merchant bank. The build-up to the long-awaited report has seen increased diplomatic tensions between the Singapore and British financial authorities. Page 20



**Graf's double trouble**  
Steffi Graf, on the eve of the Brighton International women's tournament, described her misery in coping with a chronic back injury and the strain of a German tax investigation. Page 28

**Eubank to retire**  
Chris Eubank, the 29-year-old former World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight champion, is to retire after losing his title to Steve Collins. Page 28



### COMMENT

**News analysis:** The battle for the future of our countryside comes to Parliament. Page 17

**Defia Smith:** What is the secret ingredient of her phenomenal popularity? Page 19

**David Lister** reveals what John Lennon really thought of those recycled out-takes that are masquerading as new Beatles' hits. Page 17

**Miles Kingston's** view on proverbs and those other guides to life. Page 19

**Leading article:** "After Saddam's 'victory', now is not the time to lift sanctions on Iraq." Page 18

**Weather:** The South-west and northern areas of the UK will become drier and brighter after early drizzle. Elsewhere it will be sunny to start but may rain later. Section Two, page 21

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## news

Rosemary West trial: Defendant 'was like Jekyll and Hyde' as Miss A tells of assault of girls at Cromwell Street

## Teenage girls 'were tied up and raped'

WILL BENNETT

A harrowing account of a sex attack on two girls allegedly carried out by Rosemary West and Frederick West at 25 Cromwell Street was given to Winchester Crown Court yesterday.

A woman identified only as Miss A wept as she told the court that she and another girl had been raped by Mr West and sexually assaulted by Mrs West after having their wrists and ankles bound with tape.

She said that during the attack Mrs West "was like Jekyll and Hyde". One moment she had an aggressive voice and then the next she was being all motherly again.

Miss A denied a suggestion from Richard Ferguson, QC, defending Mrs West, that her account of the incident was a fantasy that she had invented.

But she admitted that she had a history of psychiatric problems and that she had had hallucinations about Mr West.

Mrs West, 41, denies murdering 10 girls and young women whose remains were found at their house in Cromwell Street, Gloucester, and at their previous home in

the city. Mr West, who was charged with 12 murders, was found dead in his prison cell on 1 January this year.

The prosecution has alleged that seven of the victims were gagged with tape, tied up and kept alive while they were sexually abused. They were mutilated and dismembered before being buried, five of them in the cellar at Cromwell Street.

Miss A, 33, said that she was taken into care at the age of 13 and went for assessment at Russett House, Gloucester. While there, she became friendly with a girl who took her round to 25 Cromwell Street.

Mrs West was happy to talk to Miss A about the problems she was experiencing in care and the two formed a bond. Miss A said yesterday: "She was very nice. She was like a big sister-cum-young mum. Miss A was then transferred to Jordansbrook children's home in Gloucester but continued to visit Cromwell Street, going there eight or nine times.

On one visit, Mrs West answered the door dressed only in bra and pants. On another occasion, Mrs West made a sexual approach. Miss A said: "She came quite close and started



An artist's impression of Miss A telling the court of Mrs West's sexual mood swings. Illustration: Judith McCavanagh

kissing my neck and touching my breasts on the outside of my clothes.

Miss A told the court that in the summer of 1977, when she was 15, Mrs West answered the door wearing a see-through blouse with nothing underneath. They went upstairs and Mrs West led Miss A to a bedroom where Mr West was waiting with two young girls who were both naked. One was aged about 13 or 14 and the other, who had a tattoo on her arm, was 15 or 16.

Mrs West started undressing

Miss A and then got undressed herself. She went over to the younger girl and started caressing her. Miss A said the girl "looked very distressed and frightened".

Miss A said that Mrs West then produced some brown parcel-type tape and Mr West taped the younger girl's hands and wrists together in front of her and bound her ankles so that her legs were apart.

The girl was then subjected to a sexual assault and Mr West had sexual intercourse with her. Throughout the attack the

West was making sexual remarks and saying things such as "enjoy" and "it's good".

After they had finished with the girl, Mrs West pulled off the tape off harshly and was "like Jekyll and Hyde" alternating between aggression and gentleness. Miss A told the court. She went on: "During the sexual bits it was not a soft sexual voice like in passion. It was like 'This is what we're going to do. This is how it's going to be.' Afterwards she was telling her 'It's OK' in a very soft, gentle voice."

As the first girl sat and wept, Miss A said she realised "God, I'm next." She added: "I wanted to scream, I wanted to kick, I wanted to cry and I just felt numb," but she did nothing because she was frightened.

She said that Mrs West then tied her hands behind her back and bound her ankles with tape. Miss A was then subjected to several sexual assaults with a vibrator and what she believed to be a candle, which caused her pain. Mr West had intercourse with her.

Brian Leveson, QC, for the prosecution, asked: "Was anything said?" Miss A replied: "Just enjoy, relax, and these sort of things all the time. Rose said

to Fred 'are you enjoying this?' Mrs West then pulled the tape off her rather brutally and Miss A said: "I felt horrible, dirty, and I ran to the bathroom and washed. I just wanted to scrub away."

After leaving the house, she said she did not know what to do. "I couldn't go to the police because there was a stigma because if you were in care you were bad. I couldn't go to my mum. I couldn't go to my dad. There was nobody." Later she stole a can of petrol from the children's home and planned to throw it through the letter-box of 25 Cromwell Street and set fire to it. But she lost her nerve.

Miss A told the court that she had asked a friend of hers to contact a newspaper after the Cromwell Street murder inquiry began last year and that she had signed a £30,000 contract for her story.

Cross-examined by Mr Ferguson, Miss A admitted that there had been inconsistencies in her evidence. When police first approached her last year she denied going to Cromwell Street and in her original statement she told of the attack on the other girl but not the assault on herself. She agreed that

there were differences in what she had said in statements and what she had told the court about the way her hands were tied and at what point in the attack she had gone to the toilet.

Miss A said that in 1977 she had run away to live with Graham Lettis, Mrs West's brother, in Cheltenham, and that she had had a "crush on him". She said that when she went to Cromwell Street she did not know that he was Mrs West's brother.

Later, when she discovered that he had begun a relationship with someone else, she sent him a photograph of a baby and told him that it was his, which was untrue.

Miss A agreed that she had a history of psychiatric problems, had undergone electroconvulsive therapy and had twice attempted suicide.

Since 1992, she had complained about "a man in black" who followed her around. She said the man was Mr West.

She denied claims by Mr Ferguson that she had made up the story of the sex attack at Cromwell Street. As she finished her evidence, she sobbed: "I know what happened. It is not a fantasy."

The trial continues today.

## IN BRIEF

## Clinton aide targets Ulster deadlock

Tony Lake, President Clinton's National Security Adviser, met officials at Downing Street yesterday as part of efforts to revive the Northern Ireland peace process with a plan for an international commission for decommissioning IRA and loyalist paramilitary weapons.

There are hopes the proposal will be agreed before Mr Clinton's visit to Britain at the end of next month.

Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, will meet in Belfast today to discuss security and political plans for moving the peace process forward.

## Crash charges

The articulated lorry driver involved in a head on crash with a car which killed five young British medics working in southern Africa is to face charges of "culpable homicide", Swaziland police said. Inquiries into the accident near Lavumisa are continuing but the driver, from Durban, South Africa, is to be remanded for trial.

## Oil spill toll

A factory that spilled 2 tons of heavy fuel oil into the Mersey polluting a five-mile stretch of the river estuary could face prosecution by the National Rivers Authority. More than 100 birds were affected by the spillage from a soap and washing powder works in Warrington, Cheshire.

## Brain injury award

A seven-year-old girl stuck with the mental age of a six-month-old after suffering brain damage at birth was awarded £785,000 agreed damages at the High Court in London. Lucy Piper was asphyxiated when her mother went into labour at Farnborough hospital, Orpington, Kent.

## Footballer fined

Footballer Steve Kirk, 32, a defender with Scottish premier division team Falkirk, was fined £250 after being found guilty of injuring a 12-year-old girl when he recklessly kicked the ball into the crowd when another player was injured during a game against Hearts in April.

## Author dies

William Murray, the creator of the Peter and Jane reading books for young children, has died aged 83. More than 80 million copies of the 37 Ladybird keyword reading scheme books he helped devise over 30 years ago have been sold.

## £1.6m drug haul

Cannabis resin with a street value of £1.6m was seized at Heathrow in the largest seizure of the drug at London airports this year. A detector dog found the 500kg of the drug in a consignment of machine parts from Holland.

## Wheelchair attack

Police were hunting four youths who knocked a disabled grandmother out of her wheelchair after demanding cash and kicked her unconscious. Jeanne Aird, 52, of Havant, Hampshire, suffered a broken kneecap.

## Irish brain drain

The number of students from the Irish Republic entering United Kingdom universities this year has soared to a new high, figures showed. Numbers last year leapt by 50 per cent to 4,500, prompting fears in Dublin a teenage brain drain.

## Child abducted

Police were questioning a 20-year-old man after a nine-year-old girl was abducted and sexually assaulted in Derby.

## Criminal logic

A questionnaire of 130 criminals found that town centre security cameras would not only have deterred them from offending but also prevented them from becoming victims of crime, the police newspaper *The Law* said.

## Plastic Improvement

North Yorkshire County Council is replacing its aluminium road signs with plastic ones to foil thieves stealing them to melt down for cash. More than 300 signs have been stolen since February at a cost of £20,000.

## Government firm 'broke Iran embargo'

CHRIS BLACKHURST

Westminster Correspondent

The British government was accused yesterday of knowingly breaking a United Nations arms embargo and its own guidelines preventing the supply of arms to Iran during the Iran-Iraq war.

The potentially explosive allegation was made by Stephen Byers, MP for Walsley and a Labour whip, in a letter to Valerie Strachan, head of Customs and Excise. Mr Byers claimed he had evidence detailing five shipments made by Royal Ordnance, then a state-owned ammunition manufacturer, to Iran in 1985 and 1986.

If proven, Mr Byers's claims would cause maximum damage to the Government as it awaits publication of the Scott inquiry report into arms exports to Iraq. The Royal Ordnance allegations could bring into question the role of Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, who was, for part of the period, Secretary of State for Defence, in ultimate control of Royal Ordnance. This could be the first time Mr Heseltine's name has been dragged into the embargo-breaking scandals culminating in the Scott inquiry. Unlike several of his Cabinet colleagues, Mr Heseltine is expected to emerge with clean hands from the Scott report.

Mr Byers requested that Customs extend its current investigation into possible breaches of arms controls by BMARC, the defence supplier which once counted Jonathan Aitken, former defence minister, among its directors, to cover Royal Ordnance. It was Mr Heseltine

who instigated that inquiry. BMARC sent naval guns to Iran via Singapore, in contravention of the UN blockade and government export guidelines. Mr Byers, however, claims to have obtained evidence of direct shipments to Iran, and, most embarrassingly of all, says they were made by a government-owned company.

A Memorandum of Understanding between Royal Ordnance and the Government makes it clear who was in charge: the company had to submit an annual business plan to the Secretary of State for Defence and could not enter into exclusive trading agreements without his approval.

Thirty-five pages of documents, including ship's manifests, sent to Customs, apparently map out five shipments from Royal Ordnance: ■ From a Kent port in September 1985. On board were 11 containers of propellant powder and one of tetryl. The ship went to Zeebrugge, then to Rijeka in Yugoslavia and on to Bandar Abbas in Iran where the cargo was unloaded on 26 October 1985.

■ From a Kent port to Iran with three containers of tetryl, in November 1985.

■ 54 cases of tetryl to Iran in April 1986.

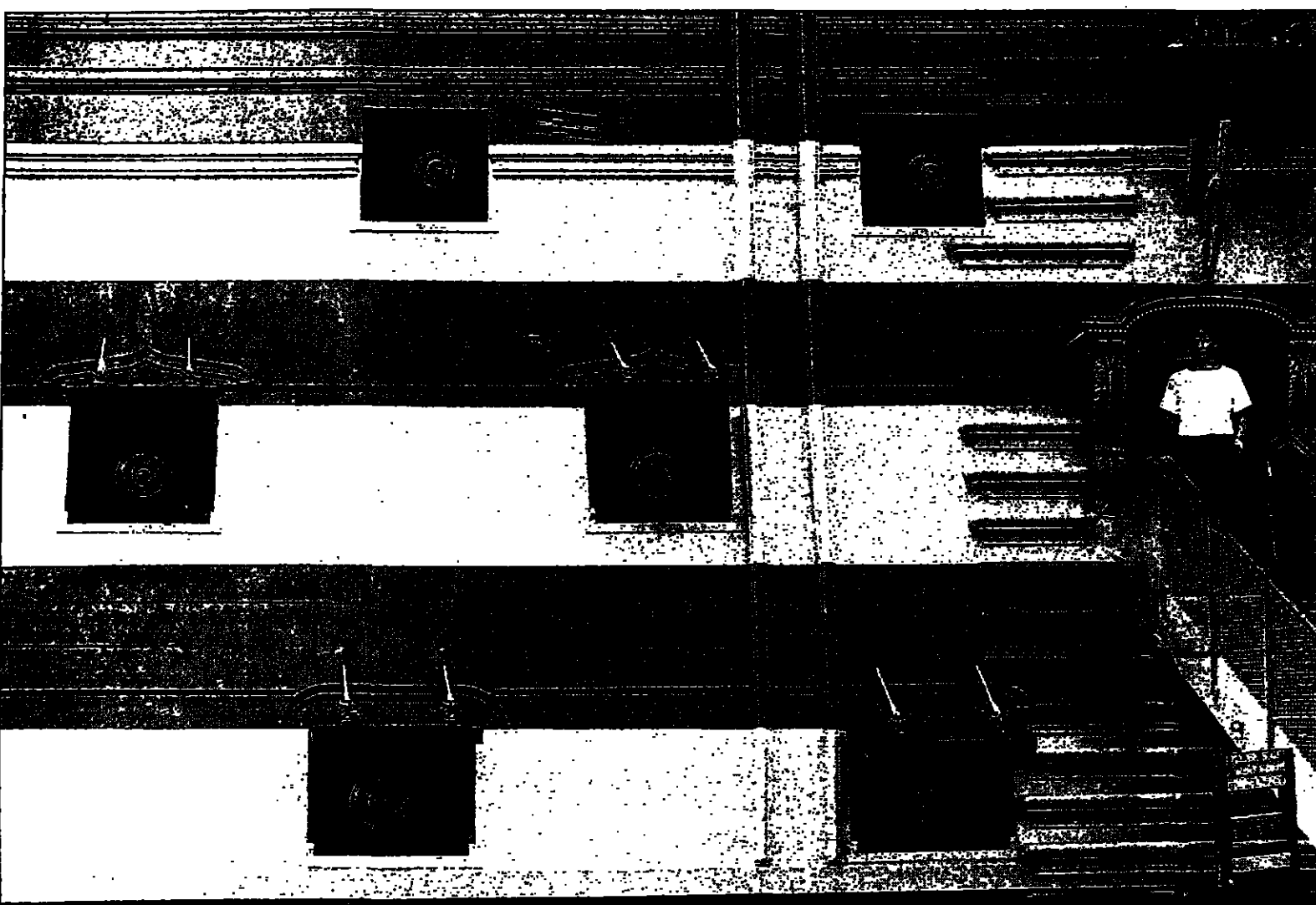
■ 104 cases of Royal Ordnance-manufactured tetryl to Bandar Abbas in June 1986.

■ 2,600 boxes of explosive powder to Bandar Abbas in July 1986.

Mr Byers obtained his papers from sources in the United States and Scandinavia. They refer to Royal Ordnance's participation in a tight-knit group of European explosives manufacturers. Another British ammunition-maker is ICL. It is understood ICI management ordered the company to take no part in the trade with Iran.

The consignments were organised by Scandinavian Commodities, according to Mr Byers's documents, with the shipping arranged by Transammo of Antwerp in Belgium. In some cases, claims Mr Byers, the Royal Bank of Scotland is shown as acting as banker.

A Customs spokeswoman said they had yet to receive Mr Byers' letter and it was too early to comment.



Broadside view: HMS Victory shed all its scaffolding yesterday for the first time in 15 years. Nelson's flagship remains encumbered for only two weeks before restoration work at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard switches from starboard to port. Photograph: Brian Harris

## British blacks stage unity rally at Broadwater Farm

PETER VICTOR

As a million black men marched in the United States capital yesterday, hundreds of British black men and women were arriving at the community centre on Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham, north London.

News of the national black unity rally in Britain, called in sympathy with the Million Man March in Washington DC, set nerves twitching among residents on the estate, the police and local politicians. All were united in their desire to say as little as possible in advance of the meeting. So was the local MP, Bernie Grant, who was due to address last night's meeting.

A Scotland Yard spokesman stressed that the gathering was "a private meeting not an open air rally" and said policing

around the estate would continue in "the normal fashion". Haringey council said none of its members would be attending "except in a private capacity", while the Broadwater Farm residents' association said: "This meeting is absolutely nothing to do with us, nothing at all."

Only the Jewish Board of Deputies, concerned about overtly anti-Semitic comments by Louis Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam's American leader, was willing to openly condemn the meeting, describing it as a "cynical" stunt. The concern centred around the keynote speaker, Minister Wayne X, a prominent member of the black separatist Nation of Islam.

The Fruit of Islam, as the group's followers are known, see the estate as a ripe picking ground.

The death of Cynthia Jarrett, a Broadwater Farm resident, during a police raid 10 years ago sparked off the worst race riots Britain has seen. Constable Keith Blacklock was hacked to death and the estate has never lived down its reputation. Perhaps as a direct result it is an ideal recruiting ground for Farrakhan's self-empowerment, self-help message. Unemployment among young black men on the estate is also disproportionately high.

Although millions of pounds have been spent improving Broadwater Farm, including hundreds of thousands of pounds to build the community centre, the venue for last night's meeting, the young black men who hang around the shops on the estate feel little has been done for them.



Aitken: Investigated

## Cricketer wins damages for loyalty jibe



Devon Malcolm: Committed

The England cricketer Devon Malcolm yesterday accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages over a magazine article which questioned his commitment to the team.

The Jamaican-born Derbyshire fast bowler, who leaves for the winter tour of South Africa tomorrow, attended the High Court to hear his solicitor, Naynes Desai, tell the judge, Mr Justice Morland, of the great offence caused by the item in the July issue of *Wisden Cricket Monthly*.

Headed "Is it in the blood?", the article suggested that England players of overseas origin would lack real commitment to the England team and would be

motivated solely by a desire for personal advancement and achievement.

It named Mr Malcolm, who has 32 caps and has taken more than 100 Test wickets, in such a way as to question his suitability to be selected for England, his patriotism and his loyalty.

Mr Malcolm found the allegations, which were entirely untrue, racist and highly offensive, Mr Desai said.

He had always been a fully committed England player and supporter and took pride in playing for his country.

Rupert Elliott, for the defence, said the publishers *Wisden Cricket Magazines Ltd* and

the magazine's editor dissociated themselves from the allegations, which were made by an independent contributor.

The article was published in the belief that it was a contribution to a legitimate debate but it was now accepted it should not have appeared.

They had already published an apology and were happy to repeat it in public. They had agreed to pay Mr Malcolm damages and his legal cost.

Mr Malcolm, of Oakwood, Derby, left court smiling after the judge added his best wishes for the tour.

"I hope Mr Malcolm can repeat his triumph at The Oval," Mr Justice Morland comment-

ed, referring to the bowler's haul in 1994 of nine South African wickets for 57 runs.

Afterwards, Mr Malcolm said he intended to pay a share of the damages to the Derbyshire Children's Hospital and the Devon Malcolm Cricket Centre for young people in Sheffield.

"I am delighted that my commitment to the England team has been recognised. I hope no one will ever again question the dedication and loyalty of sportsmen and women because of their place of birth or ethnic origin," he said.

"It is important to me to promote multi-racial sport. I am looking forward now to playing for England in South Africa."

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# 'Chapter of errors' led to Parkhurst escape

STEPHEN WARD

In the dark of a January evening, a dog handler at Parkhurst noticed a hole cut in the wire perimeter fence. It took 30 minutes for staff to discover who was missing, and by that time three prisoners had been on the run with money and weapons for two and a half hours.

The Learmont inquiry into the episode tells the story of disaster at every level and a naivety which defies belief. The break-out was not based on any "new or ingenious" plan, but simply on the ability of the

prisoners to follow a well-trodden path through loose and ineffective security.

The escape was the culmination of long and detailed preparations which rivalled those of the British prisoners of war in Colditz. The three men had made tools, a steel ladder and a gun, and had acquired blank ammunition. They had also made a key - which they tested beforehand - to open all the doors and gates, and somehow they managed to accumulate more than £200.

On the evening of the escape the three men had stayed on in the sports hall after exercise. No one noticed that the party of ten

had shrunk to seven back on the wing. The men walked 200 yards without being noticed, using their key to open doors, including the training workshop where they picked up the tools they had prepared beforehand.

They then cut their way through a mesh fence, where they were missed by closed-circuit television cameras, before scaling the perimeter wall using the ladder, still unseen by the cameras and unnoticed by prison officers.

The staff who were supposed to be keeping an eye on the television screens were untrained and distracted by other duties. Despite almost 20 years of cor-

respondence and complaints, alarms had never been installed by the Prison Service on the perimeter fence. Some areas were not covered by the closed circuit cameras. The report says this neglect of technology was "quite extraordinary".

The escaping men were in their own clothes, with a good head start. They walked to Newport and took a taxi nine miles to Sandown. They then spent four days trying to steal an aircraft, and several boats, undetected by the massive search now underway. Finally, they were caught after being spotted by chance by an off-duty prison officer.

The inquiry revealed that one of the escaped prisoners was a qualified sheet-metal worker who had been left, unsupervised, to make the ladder out of some unwanted materials. Another made the key, probably copying from memory a prison officer's key. He also made a tool which would help steal cars and aircraft. And, somehow, they made a gun.

The cash and ammunition probably came in via visitors. There was no closed-circuit television in the visiting area, and the report says: "It was known by officers that, in the confusion and noise, illicit items were regularly passed to the inmates."

Staff themselves may have brought illegal items in - they were seldom checked.

Some of the weaknesses are blamed on the continual and disruptive building work at the Victorian jail, which had begun in 1988 and should have finished in 1993, but will now go on into the next century. Staff, including the Governor, resisted temporary closure in order to protect their jobs.

"A phoney stability was achieved at Parkhurst... by surrendering to the prisoners of control over their daily existence," says the report. The prison was effectively run by the prisoners; there was no real firm-

it to private cash holdings, and bullying and intimidation were rife, so money accumulated with the more powerful inmates. When 20 high-risk prisoners were transferred from the prison after the escape, the total private cash balance held on behalf of inmates fell by almost £15,000. Phonecards were used as currency for drugs and gambling. The Governor spent only two or three hours a week talking to staff and inmates, and 50 on paperwork.

If the prison was incompetent in keeping prisoners in, it was even worse at catching them once they were out. The report describes the hunt as "chaos".

No one knew who should be called in to help, many radios and torches had flat batteries, and maps were illegible photocopies. The report concludes: "The break-out could have been launched at any time with the same chances of success. There is little to commend in the way things were done despite the conscientiousness of many individuals."

"The hopelessness of the situation is perhaps best illustrated by the comments of many honest prison officers who during interviews made the plea: 'Please come back and check that your recommendations have been implemented.'"

## Prison chief sad not to complete his term

Jojo Moyes looks at the brief and difficult tenure of a 'career manager'

Few were surprised when it emerged earlier this year that Derek Lewis had not been the first choice to head the Prison Service.

A career manager, whose previous charges had included motorway services, television rental and Granada Television, he had no prison or public work experience when he was appointed in 1993. More importantly, he had no experience of dealing with ministers.

Mr Lewis's tenure did not take place in the easiest of times and many feel he has been an "unlucky" Director General. In his two years in the service the prison population has jumped from 40,000 to 51,600, and four months after his appointment he inherited Michael Howard as Home Secretary, a man with a very different view of the prison regime.

Detractors admit that he has improved many parts of the prison service. But Mr Lewis, who was paid an unprecedented £125,000 a year, was also unpopular for following ministers' advice, against research, and for implementing privatisation reforms and market testing, which demoralised staff and overwhelmed governors with administration.

He also presided over some of the worst lapses in security, and it was the furore surrounding these that led to his dismissal yesterday.

Whitemoor prison in Cambridgeshire has been one of Mr Lewis's greatest bugbears. Five IRA terrorists tried to shoot their way out of the prison last year and Semtex explosive was later discovered inside.

Mr Lewis was also criticised over the transfer of IRA prisoners; Brighton bomber Patrick Magee was sent back to Ulster on the day the Northern Ireland ceasefire started. The escapes from privatised security firms, the Everthorpe riots, the suicide of alleged multiple killer Fred West while on remand, and the murder of a Woolworth's shop assistant by murderer Ian Kay while on prison leave compounded the pressure.

But it was the escape of three dangerous prisoners from Parkhurst in January this year that ultimately made Mr Lewis's position untenable, especially once a leaked copy of Sir John Learmont's report singled him out for criticism. The report said the policy of



Final departure: Derek Lewis leaving his office yesterday. Photograph: Geraint Lewis

appointing business executives and civil servants without operational experience to run the prison service had been "a disaster". Mr Lewis, renowned for his planning and cost-evaluation skills, was reported to have been appointed over more obvious candidates because of his fervent backing of prison privatisation.

By early this year, however, there were reports that he was poised to quit, that he had told close colleagues he wanted out

of the hot seat and a return to industry. Meanwhile, relations between Mr Lewis and Michael Howard are said to have become increasingly strained, largely due to what is seen as the Home Secretary's "interference" in the work of the Prison Service.

Michael Howard yesterday told the Commons that it was "with some sadness" that he had concluded a change of leadership was necessary. But Mr Lewis is said to be angry at

having been used as a political shield by the Home Secretary. Mr Lewis has been described as Mr Howard's "whipping boy" and has said he is deeply disappointed "not to finish the job off".

In his letter in response to the "sacking" he told the Home Secretary: "It is a great disappointment to me that in the 13 months since the Whitemoor escape you have required so much paper but have paid so little attention to prisons."

## Alcatraz-style jail planned

HEATHER MILLS  
Home Affairs Correspondent

A super-secure Alcatraz-style prison for high risk, sophisticated prisoners, another to take psychotic and volatile inmates, and the setting up of armed response units are central to Sir John Learmont's blueprint for the future.

His whitening 180-page report contains 127 recommendations for root and branch reform, designed to end what he described as "a chapter of errors at every level and a naivety that defies belief."

As well as improving the physical security of the country's jails, the report recommends restructuring and streamlining management, a total reappraisal of the risks posed by all inmates and major changes in their treatment. "This inquiry has found a great deal that needs to be put right within the prison service, spanning leadership, structure, the management chain and the ethos of the

Service," Sir John concludes. In what will be a controversial recommendation to a Home Secretary who does not want to appear soft on prisoners, he also recommends to use of in-cell television as a means of control. He suggests that its provision and the hours it can be used could be used as an incentive for good behaviour.

"The fact that so many other countries have gone down this road is proof positive of its advantages," He identifies as a priority the need to end the drug culture in jails and suggests removing prisoners' rights to private cash, which has allowed some to have access to thousands of pounds. All cash should be earned and paid into a central fund, the amount of work available to inmates.

Sir John suggests mandatory "closed" visits, where visitors and prisoners are divided by glass screens, for all exceptional risk inmates, like IRA prisoners. He also says that Judge Stephen Tuzum, the indepen-

dent Chief Inspector of Prisons - who had warned about lax security at Parkhurst before the escape - should have an enhanced role with an increased staff.

The cost is estimated at over £134.5m in the first four years - the bulk of which is for the two new super-secure prisons.

Denying that he had imported the idea from the United States, Sir John said a well-respected architect had been brought in to design a British jail for the 21st century. It would have two control towers, and although he makes no recommendation for on-site firearms, he does suggest the setting up of armed response units. Visitors would have to pass through a tunnel into a prison divided into separate, self-contained units, with all recreational areas covered by anti-helicopter wire. Would-be escapees would have to negotiate three walls and a fence, dogs, cameras and alarms.

The idea for an Alcatraz-type jail was first put forward 30 years

ago by Earl Mountbatten, after his inquiry into the escape of the spy George Blake.

But his idea of holding all the most dangerous criminals under one roof was rejected in favour of the current "dispersal" system - which spreads all high risk prisoners among six top security jails: Parkhurst, Whitemoor, Full Sutton, Long Lartin, Frankland and Belmarsh.

Sir John has reversed the 30-year penal policy after a series of security embarrassments, including those at Parkhurst and Whitemoor, which showed that the dispersal system was far from foolproof. The humiliations began with the spectacular helicopter escape in 1987 from Gartree prison by Andrew Russell. He was also among those who escaped from Whitemoor in September last year.

But there remains deep concern about the new plans, not least from governors who claim it makes impossible the breaking up of gangs bent on escape, violence or intimidation.

## 'Your objectives were achieved'

This is an edited version of the letter from Derek Lewis to Home Secretary, Michael Howard

Derek Lewis: The case for and against

FOR AGAINST

**Experience**  
From the moment he took over the service in April 1993, he was a very visible leader, prepared to take the blame and defend his reputation.

**Leadership Qualities**  
Adaptable. He took over a service preparing to implement the secure but "flawed" recommendations of the Wood Inquiry into the Birmingham riots, but four months later inherited Michael Howard as Home Secretary with a very different blueprint for "custodial" prisons.

**Security**  
He reduced prison escapes dramatically. For the six months ending last August, escapes were down to 57 - a 60 per cent reduction on last year and 71 per cent down over the last three years.

**Reforms**  
He tackled dealing with record numbers of prisoners in overcrowded prisons - inmate numbers have increased by 10,000 since he took over - he met all his key performance indicators. They included ensuring longer time out of cells, guaranteeing visits and introducing the first ever code of standards for prisoners, and reducing overall costs.

**The Drug Problem**  
He recognised drug and drink problems throughout the system and introduced the first co-ordinated strategy to deal with them.

**Security**  
As Chief Executive of Granada, he had no previous experience of jails and none of dealing with ministers.

**Security**  
He carried out ministers' bidding even when it went against research and advice. That included the introduction of boot camps and curfewing home and temporary release, which increased tensions in jails. Implementing the government's prison privatisation and market testing has demoralised staff.

**Security**  
His tenure included two of the worst escapes in prison history - the PA men from Whitemoor top security prison and three life sentence prisoners from Parkhurst. There were other disasters. Fred West, accused of the Gloucester murders, targeted himself in prison. Two men released from Maidstone prison were accused of committing murder while out on home leave.

**Security**  
He failed to tackle bureaucracy, swamping governors with paperwork and distracting them from running their jails. He is regarded as ineffectual, and failed to deal with training and career development. Regimes for prisoners were only slightly improved.

**Security**  
Policies failed to have much impact and a big question mark hangs over key component - mandatory drug testing.

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"My earliest memory is MuM and DaD talking BUSINESS around the BREAKFAST table..."

Jane Ashley of Laura Ashley

"At LAURA ASHLEY and other memorable places."

"That'll do nicely."

## news

## Tycoon 'constantly tried to stretch the law'



On the defence: Kevin Maxwell arriving at the Old Bailey yesterday where he took to the witness stand for the first time. Photograph: Edward Webb

JOHN WILLCOCK  
Financial Correspondent

Kevin Maxwell took to the witness stand for the first time yesterday to defend himself against charges of misusing pension funds, and described his father, Robert Maxwell, as a "bully" who used "verbal brutality".

After 19 weeks hearing the prosecution case, an Old Bailey jury heard Kevin Maxwell's counsel, Alan Jones QC, outline how he would defend himself. Kevin's brother Ian, who also faces charges of conspiracy to defraud the Maxwell pension funds, listened as Kevin described their father: "I was in awe of him as a child, I was very frightened."

He said his father "was somebody who dominated any business that he was involved in and that domination was partly physical. He was a big man, he had enormous charisma and a commanding presence in a room. Given his weight and bulk he could dominate and did dominate every meeting that he attended."

While Robert Maxwell did not consider himself above the law, the tycoon constantly attempted to "stretch the law as far as it would go".

Kevin and Ian Maxwell, together with Larry Trachtenberg, a former Maxwell finan-

## The Maxwell Trial



Day 78

cial adviser, deny conspiracy to defraud the trustees and beneficiaries of the pension funds by misusing £22m shares in an Israeli company Teva, by pledging them as security for a loan in a vain attempt to prop up the ailing Maxwell empire after Robert Maxwell's death in November 1991. Kevin Maxwell alone denies a similar charge of conspiring with his father to misuse £100m shares in the Israeli company Scitex to pay private Maxwell company debts.

Mr Jones told the jury that the defence would argue that Kevin believed both sets of shares had been legally transferred from the pension funds to the private side of the business empire, Robert Maxwell Group (RMG), before being used for these subsequent deals.

When Mr Jones asked Kevin who he believed the Scitex shares belonged to in July and August of 1991, just months before his father's death, he replied: "I believed they had been transferred to the ownership of RMG. I was told that by my father. I saw an amended version of a contract and I believed those shares to have been transferred."

As for the ownership of the shares in Teva, he said: "Again I believed the ownership of Teva shares had been transferred from Bishopsgate [which administered the pension funds] to RMG. Again I was told by my father that ownership had been transferred."

Mr Jones also revealed that the defence would be calling evidence "as to how Robert Maxwell met his death". He told the jury that after his father's death, Kevin believed the banks would continue to support him and that an injection of £400m into the group would be forthcoming from an investor.

Kevin's case was that he had believed that while the Maxwell empire was suffering "liquidity

problems" throughout 1991 it was still "saveable" because it had a number of very valuable businesses and would enjoy the continued support of its banks. The defence argues that it was the banks that caused the eventual collapse of the group by withdrawing support.

Mr Jones said he was reluctant, because of the widespread press interest, to identify at this stage the witnesses who would be called, but they included Kevin's wife Pandora.

Kevin said his father was "somebody who inspired great loyalty and he was a real leader in that sense, a charismatic leader. He wasn't motivated by money, he was motivated by power, the ability to influence events, the ability to make a difference, to change things, not only in this country but abroad."

He would bully his subordinates, he said. "The domination was in part physical, part charismatic, and also he dominated by virtue of his success. The more successful he got the more people were willing to accept his judgment. He was capable of being extremely charming to people, he was capable of being winning but he was also capable of verbal brutality in meetings, public dressing-downs not only of his children but also his senior managers."

Kevin described how his father would hold daily meetings with senior managers at Mirror Group Newspapers. "If any of those managers had the misfortune to be reporting an event that displeased him, the guy would have a strip torn off him and the humiliation would be in public in front of his peers."

People were willing to work for Robert Maxwell despite his bullying nature because of the other, charming side of his character, said Kevin. "There aren't that many top jobs in Fleet Street. How many editors of national newspapers are there? If you are in positions of interest and power in an exciting environment, you put up with a lot."

He even forced senior directors to open mail in the mail room at Pergamon Press and would harangue them if they dealt with it wrongly. "It was his way of imposing control and putting the fear of God into people," Kevin said.

The case continues today.

# An early Christmas box from Ford.



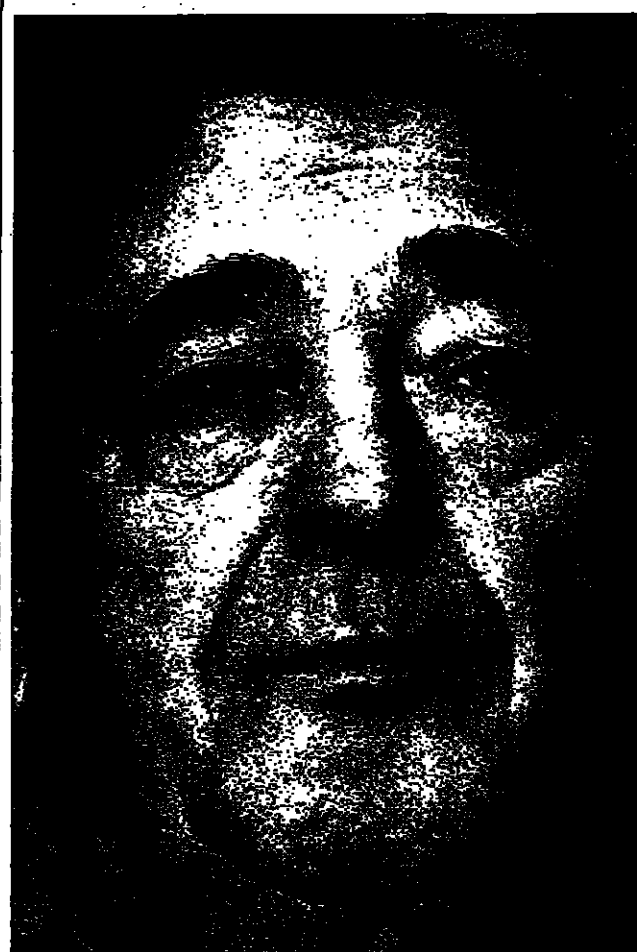
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Recommended Retail Price <sup>(1)</sup>	£8,610	£11,995	£13,185
Estimated On-The-Road Price <sup>(2)</sup>	£9,215	£12,600	£13,790
Deposit (%)	20%	20%	20%
Deposit (£)	£1,843	£2,520	£2,758
Balance	£7,372	£10,080	£11,032
Total Charges for Credit <sup>(3)</sup>	£1,755.18	£2,393.95	£2,599.68
Total Credit Price	£10,970.18	£14,993.95	£16,389.68
Term (months)	25	25	25
Number of Monthly Payments	24	24	24
Monthly Payments	£216.57	£292.55	£323.97
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Dominant character: Robert Maxwell 'bullied subordinates'

## Delia's perfect recipe for another bestseller

RHYS WILLIAMS  
Media Correspondent

The cookery author Delia Smith has stormed the autumn bestseller list with her latest recipe book, *Winter Collection*.

The book has sold 500,000 in its first week, taking it to the top of the hardback list ahead of *Enigma*, Robert Harris's long awaited follow-up to *Fatherland*, and Nigel Mansell's *Autobiography*.

Ms Smith's publishers, BBC Books, had originally hoped the *Winter Collection* would pass the half-million mark by Christmas, but extraordinary levels of demand - fuelled by the interest created by her last big book *Summer Collection* and vigorous price discounting - should see sales pass 700,000 by mid-November.

Smith's books have sold more than 8 million copies. The *Cookery Course* has never been out of the top 20 since its first appearance in 1978, while *Summer Collection* published two years ago sold more than a million on the back of a television

series, which was repeated this summer. The launch of the *Winter Collection* was timed to coincide with a new television series starting last Wednesday.

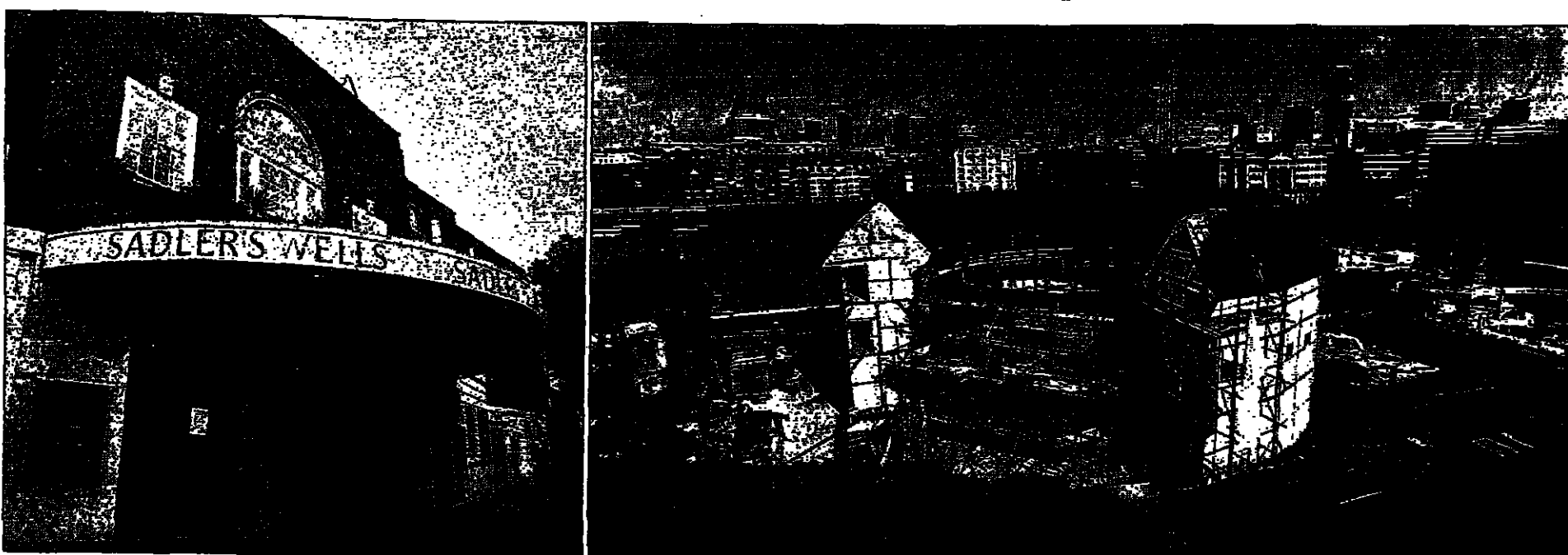
Such has been the interest in her culinary ideas that when she broadcast a recipe for truffle torte in December 1990, listing among the ingredients "liquid glucose" (available from chemists), pharmacies the length and breadth of Britain promptly sold out.

However, there is no doubt that the climate of discounting created by the collapse of the Net Book Agreement has contributed significantly to the pace of the *Winter Collection*'s sales. Waterstone's is selling the £15.99 book for £10.99, as are Woolworths and Sainsbury's.

Book Warehouse is offering a discount price of £9.99 - 41p cheaper than small independent shops can buy the book wholesale. This has led to fears that some bookshops will be priced out of business in their key gift-buying season.

Ever so English, page 19





Centre stage: £30m will turn Sadler's Wells into the 'theatre of the future', while £12.4m will recreate the Globe (above right) in a Shakespearean past. Photograph: Ed Sykes

## Gowrie defends theatre grants

MARIANNE MACDONALD  
Arts Reporter

The Earl of Gowrie, the chairman of the Arts Council, was thrown on the defensive yesterday after a £30m lottery award to Sadler's Wells theatre in London reignited criticism that lottery money was funding the entertainment of "toffs".

The award to Sadler's Wells, one of London's most adventurous dance theatres, was made in the sixth round of lottery grants from the Arts Council, which totalled just under £51m.

Other grants included the delayed £12.4m award to Shakespeare's Globe theatre

to complete the main open-air auditorium; £750,000 to Edenwood Productions to film *A Midsummer Night's Dream* under the direction of Adrian Noble; and £1m to Picture Palace Films toward the cost of adapting William Golding's novel *The Spire*.

The £30m grant to Sadler's Wells - the largest since the Royal Opera House won £55m in July - will pay for the demolition of the theatre's flawed 1930s building, which is unlisted, and the construction of a hi-tech "theatre of the future" on the same Islington site.

But the size of the grant has weighted the balance of arts lottery funding even more heavily

in London's favour. Since the Arts Council began its handouts in March it has spent £179m, 69.8 per cent of which has gone to the capital. Lord Gowrie acknowledged that the balance would look "rather damning" to anyone outside the capital, but said the pattern would change as more applications came through. He added that a number of "inevitable factors" had caused the early disproportionate spend - including the size of the country, which meant that the biggest cultural institutions were in London, and the fact that big organisations had the staff to process bids fast.

In rejecting the criticism that the award to Sadler's Wells,

which boasts Tony Blair's wife Cherie as an honorary adviser, was another example of funding "art for toffs", Lord Gowrie said: "We are not sitting in a *tour d'ivoire*. We are responding to real bids from real people... It's untrue to say that all rich people like opera, or the upper classes don't like reggae."

His comments were backed by Ian Albery, chief executive of Sadler's Wells, who said that the average price for a seat at the theatre was £10.70. He added: "The key words which inform everything we do are that access must be at prices that artists and labourers can afford."

The work on the 1,500-seat main theatre and the studio

theatre is due to start next autumn - if the theatre can raise almost £9m by then in partnership funding - and will be completed in two years.

Lord Gowrie also announced yesterday that the Arts Council was setting up a "trouble-shooting department" to oversee the way lottery money is spent on capital projects. He then surprised observers by announcing that he would be prepared to give lottery funds to all art forms - including reggae bands. The former Minister for the Arts explained: "I look upon culture as existing across a very, very wide swathe."

But Lord Gowrie quashed speculation that it was dancing

to reggae music which had caused his accident at the weekend, in which he cracked two ribs. That had been incurred by getting out of the bath too quickly.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, has given a clear hint that the National Heritage Memorial Fund is reconsidering its rejection of the Neptune Hall scheme in Greenwich for a grant from lottery funds, following the intervention of Prince Philip, as reported yesterday in the *Independent*.

Mrs Bottomley said on BBC radio she expected the review to have "a positive" outcome. Letters, page 18

## Leader of 'Wee Frees' dies

ANDREW BROWN  
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland, the "Wee Frees", has died. The Rev Murdoch Macleod, 60, was minister of the church in Stornoway, which, with 1,000 members, claimed to be the largest Calvinist congregation in Scotland.

The "Wee Frees", who split from the Church of Scotland in 1843 over the state appointment of ministers, are not as rabidly anti-Catholic as the "Wee Wee Frees", the sect from which the Lord Chancellor, Lord

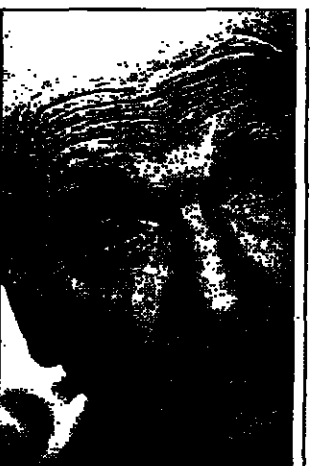
Mackay of Clashfern, was expelled after he attended a colleague's funeral mass.

As Moderator of this year's Assembly, Mr Macleod had to deal with the embarrassment of a visit by Cardinal Winning, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland, who accompanied the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, paying his annual ceremonial visit.

The Cardinal had earlier pleaded the cause of ecumenism at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and been denounced by Mr Macleod. "It is shocking

and appalling and a sad day for Scotland when a Roman Catholic Cardinal is invited to address the national church," he said, before realising that the Cardinal had been smuggled into his own Assembly.

Mr Macleod was praised yesterday for his tactful handling of a long-running inquiry into allegations of sexual impropriety against one of the Wee Frees' leading theologians, who was eventually cleared. The Rev Iver Martin, assistant minister, described Mr Macleod as one of the few "leadership" figures in the church.



Lord Mackay: Expelled from 'Wee Wee Frees'

## Minister rejects calls for a ban on boxing

LOUISE JURY

The Government yesterday rejected calls for a ban on boxing in the wake of the death of the fighter James Murray.

Iain Sprou, the sports minister, said it was a "terrific sport" and added: "It would be a great shame if this tragic death were to weigh too heavily."

Dismissing Liberal Democrat demands for an immediate royal commission on the sport, he said the British Boxing Board of Control was already investigating Friday night's fight, which ended with Murray, 25, collapsing unconscious as he fought a four-course meal.

An independent medical panel which advised the board after the death of the boxer Bradley Stone last year was also reconvening.

But as news emerged from the Philippines that a 19-year-old boxer also died on Sunday from injuries received in the ring, Labour MP Peter Hain stepped up the pressure for intervention.

He said the Government should insist that any public money given to the sport was conditional on a "root-and-branch" reform. "Perhaps this should include a ban on punching to the head, stopping dangerous dehydration... to put safety first, otherwise boxing should be banned altogether."

Murray was pronounced dead on Sunday, two days after his bantamweight title fight at the Glasgow Hospitality Inn against

Drew Docherty. Restituto Espineli died the same day in Manila of a brain haemorrhage.

The British Boxing Board of Control inquiry will also examine whether new crowd control measures are needed to prevent the kind of violence witnessed at the Murray-Docherty fight.

Simon Block, the board's assistant general secretary, said there were very strict regulations for normal public fights and similar rules for "dinner fights". But on Friday, 300 spectators were allowed to stand behind the 400 guests who had paid £50 each for a four-course meal.

Mr Block said this was very rare, although not unheard of, but said: "One of the problems of any governing body is the type of events change. You make legislation to cover the events you're controlling then comes something that doesn't come within the guidelines."

At public matches, crowds are not allowed to drink in the arena. At dinner fights, where they may, there had never been any record of trouble.

Tom Pendry, Labour sports spokesman and the British Boxing Board's safety committee chairman, said they were close to "pretty radical proposals that will show we're doing all we can to make it as safe as possible."

Strathclyde police, who are investigating five reported assaults at the match, are to examine photographic and video coverage to identify offenders. Fight goes on, Section Two

**Bogdan was an ordinary man who led a quiet life, loved his wife and got on well with the neighbours. Unfortunately this did not save him from a fate worse than death.**

Bogdan was a lorry driver who lived in a town in the former Yugoslavia with his wife Sofija.

Even after war broke out they were on cordial terms with their neighbours, despite being of a different nationality. Bogdan was not involved in politics. No-one understood why the unmarked police car took him away for questioning. He passed a lie-detector test and was allowed to go home again. Three weeks later two armed men wearing army fatigues, claiming to be policemen, came to his door and took him away at gunpoint. He has never been seen since.

Sofija has tried to find her husband. She went to the police station, to be told Bogdan was not there. She wrote to the Red Cross, the country's Parliament, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, all to no avail. Sofija lives in hope that Bogdan may be alive, but she can't be sure. Four years have passed since his "disappearance". As more years roll by without a word, Sofija's agony will never end. She will be denied the healing power of being able to mourn. That is why "disappearance" often seems a fate worse than death.

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## DAILY POEM

### Afterwords

By Jenny Joseph

When I am not with you  
Why, I may be on the Common;  
I may be on the tube  
On my way home with the throng.

When I'm no longer with you  
I shall be the loser.  
You must not feel a lack;  
Your thoughts are always with me.  
My life filled up with yours  
Will come home with the others.

When I am not with you  
And am no longer with you  
After the long release  
O, then I shall hear you singing.

Who knows but thoughts like birds  
May settle down on you?  
One day looking up  
When January smells of spring  
And a blackbird calls from dark air;  
Feeling the sky full of movement,  
Who knows but you may think  
The thoughts of someone who loves us  
Are moving up there?

Jenny Joseph was born in 1932 in Birmingham. Her first collection *The Unlooked-for Season* (1960) won her a Gregory Award and she won a Cholmondeley Award for her second collection, *Rose in the Afternoon* (1974). Her *Selected Poems* was published by Bloodaxe in 1992. Last week she was awarded the 1995 Forward Prize for Best Individual Poem. "In Honour of Love", which appears, like this poem, in her latest collection *Ghosts and Other Company* published by Bloodaxe.

## news

# Police excluded from Guinness case, court told

JAMES CUSICK

A "star chamber" agreement was made to keep the police out of the investigation into Guinness's 1986 multi-billion pound takeover of Distillers, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

On the first day of the appeals of the four men convicted in the Guinness affair, counsel for Ernest Saunders, the former chief executive of Guinness, said the "crux of this case" would be that Department of Trade and Industry inspectors in effect became "evidence gatherers" for a prosecuting team that deliberately excluded the police because they had less investigative power than the inspectors.

Jonathan Caplan QC said that documents disclosed this year - five years after the first Guinness trial - had revealed what he called a "shameless fishing expedition".

In 1986 the DTI first appointed inspectors to investigate Guinness's affairs. The appointments were essentially government-ordered and investigated concerns that "concert party" activities centring on an illegal share support scheme had assisted Guinness in the

takeover of Distillers. According to Mr Caplan, the disclosed documents showed that the DTI inspectors were regarded as "more efficient" in uncovering facts than the police; and that the police, at key stages of the investigations, were "kept out" because they had less powers than the inspectors.

Under the then law the inspectors had the power to compel those they interviewed to give answers and that failure to do so could end in imprisonment. The legal privileges of avoiding self-incrimination and the right to silence were thus denied by failing to bring in the police at an appropriate time, said Mr Caplan.

In 1990 Mr Saunders, along with the property tycoon, Gerald Ronson, and a former stockbroker, Anthony Farnes, all received jail sentences over their involvement in the share price support scheme. The fourth man, Jack Lyons, a leading consultant, received a £3m fine and was stripped of his knighthood.

The appeals - estimated to last a month - are expected to be based on the appellants' claims that they were denied their rights to silence and that the Serious Fraud Office also

withheld key evidence from defence counsel.

The appeal is the latest legal battle in the Guinness saga that is so far estimated to have cost the taxpayer £27m.

In court yesterday before the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, Mr Justice Macpherson and Mr Justice Potter, Mr Caplan argued that as there was a criminal prosecution of people involved in the Distillers takeover then it was wrong for the DTI inspectors and not the police to be involved.

Lord Taylor suggested that Mr Caplan was "sitting on a very narrow fence". He said that all except Mr Saunders were arguing that even when all information was finally gathered there was still no case to argue.

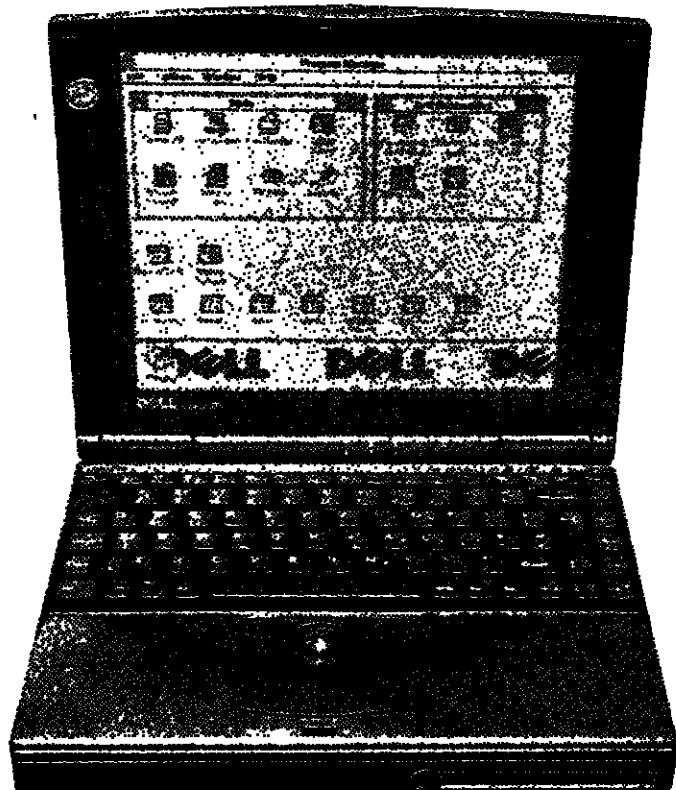
Mr Caplan was highly critical of meetings between the DTI inspectors and the Office of the DPP which took place between December 1986 and March 1987. "We criticised the fact that the inspectors were meeting the prosecution and discussing prosecution matters such as witnesses and evidence. These should never have taken place... This is the business of the prosecution not the business of company inspectors."

The trial continues today.



Over the seas: Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland, on the controversial Skye Bridge, which he opened yesterday. The new island link to the mainland has meant the end of the legendary ferry service, and locals are dismayed by the size of the tolls. Photograph: Drew Farrell

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## Judges' claims criticised by Labour law chief

STEPHEN WARD  
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The shadow Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, claimed last night that some senior judges were challenging the constitution by saying they have the right to overturn some laws.

Lord Irvine made the assertions during a speech detailing the developing relationship between Parliament and the judiciary, and the increasing use of the courts for judicial review of government policy.

Speaking to the Administrative Law Bar Association in London, he picked out examples of senior judges challenging the supremacy of Parliament while speaking outside court which all made assertions "contrary to the established laws and constitution of the United Kingdom... since 1688".

He said: "Recently... a number of English judges, notably Lord Woolf, have written extra-judicially that in certain purely

domestic circumstances the courts may hold invalid statutes duly passed by Parliament."

The Law Lord, Lord Woolf, had argued that the courts "could justifiably refuse to recognise and give effect to legislative action which sought to undermine the rule of law by removing or substantially impairing the powers of review of the High Court".

Lord Irvine also quoted a speech by the the High Court judge Sir John Laws in which he said that the democratic credentials of an elected government could not justify its enjoyment of a right to abolish fundamental freedoms. Sir John had added: "The need for higher order law is dictated by the logic of the very notion of a government under law... The doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty cannot be vouched by parliamentary legislation; a higher-order law confers it and must of necessity limit it".

Lord Irvine cited a second

High Court judge, Sir Stephen Sedley, maintaining that sovereignty lies not in Parliament but in the constitution, which consists of a framework of principles, such as democracy and respect for human rights which cannot be denied, even by Act of Parliament.

Lord Irvine said there had been no sufficiently important abuse by Parliament to justify judges rewriting the constitution in this way.

"Many would regard as inconceivable, on the part of any Parliament which we can presently contemplate, any assault upon the basic tenets of democracy which might call for the invocation of the judicial power claimed, and if there were an attack, the judges could probably do nothing about it."

"I am as conscious as any of the need for eternal vigilance. But if there ever were such an assault, it would surely be on the political battlefield the issue would be resolved."

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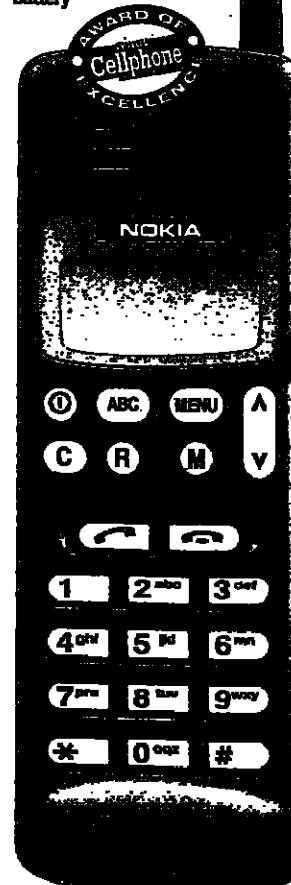
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Teaching standards: Rules for inspectors changed to put more emphasis on what goes on in the classroom

# Schools to be marked on pupil performance

JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

Teaching standards in schools will be graded from one to seven and the results published in inspection reports, according to new rules published yesterday. The rules for inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) have been produced after complaints that inspectors demand too much paperwork and spend too much time examining the way in which schools are organised. Reports under the new system will state the proportion of teaching that is very good (grades 1 and 2), the proportion that is satisfactory or better (grades 3 to 4), and that which is less than satisfactory (grades 5 to 7). There will still be no overall grade for schools.

Chris Woodhead, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, said "We believe very strongly that inspections must focus on standards of pupils and the quality of teaching in schools." The new guidance "is better than the old because it is shorter, sharper and goes to the heart of the matter: the classroom". Inspectors will have to give examples of successful and unsuccessful teaching methods that they have observed in a school. The new rules say that judgements about schools' management should be based on the effect it has on raising standards. Inspectors should establish whether heads know what is going on in classrooms and are taking steps to improve it. Mr Woodhead will announce shortly the procedures for implementing the Prime Minister's plan for reporting the best and the worst teachers to the head after an inspection. Under the present scheme, schools are inspected every

four years by privatised teams of inspectors, and a team of experts may be sent in to take over schools that fail inspections. A school's overall performance will still be judged on its management, discipline and attendance, as well as its educational standards. Mr Woodhead said that there were no plans to publish overall grades for schools. "It is a balance between giving parents as much information as we have - and bombarding people with too much statistical information." All reports will have to contain pupils' achievements, measured against national targets and the schools' own targets. Inspectors will no longer try to measure pupils' potential - which has proved difficult - but will look at their progress compared with their previous performance. The emphasis in reporting achievements will be

on the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. Reports must be written in plain English and not according to a predetermined formula. Peter Matthews, head of Ofsted's quality assurance team, said: "Inspectors will be asked to make unequivocal judgements using appropriate adjectives. Reports have been criticised for being too vague and woolly." Schools will not need to produce as many documents before the inspection. Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the reduction in bureaucracy was welcome but added: "These inspections will continue to be a snapshot of what happens in our schools. There are no proposals for follow up support and advice, an essential element previously provided by local authorities but which has been a casualty of the new system."

## New system put to the test

The jury is still out on whether the new, privatised school inspection system has led to better schools. Ofsted began inspecting secondary schools in 1993 and has so far visited just over half of them; primary inspections began a year later and less than a quarter have been covered. It is still too soon for improvements to be measured, though Ofsted did measure a drop in the number of unsatisfactory lessons between 1993 and 1994 from more than a quarter to less than a fifth. However, a steady rise in examination results started long before the inspection system was reformed, with the proportion of good grades at GCSE going up by 7 per cent in as many years. The battle still rages over whether these better results

mean higher standards in schools or lower standards among the examining boards, but while some schools may have cleaned up their acts, others certainly have not. Labour's education spokesman, David Blunkett, has just revealed that while the top 25 per cent of pupils gain the equivalent of 12 GCSEs at grade C, the bottom 25 per cent get just one. The gap between the best and the worst of our pupils - and our schools - is still far too wide. Having said all that, inspection has made schools scrutinise every aspect of their lives with a new zeal. Ofsted believes that the very prospect of inspection has increased the mo-

tivation of schools which have not been visited. There are some examples of improvement through inspection. Crook Primary in Co Durham was given a clean bill of health this year, 18 months after being the first mainstream school found to be failing under Ofsted. But its staff say that their experience - traumatic in the extreme and involving the early retirement of the head-teacher on health grounds - should not be repeated. Experts agree that school improvement is down to the efforts of staff, governors and pupils. Here, Ofsted's new framework can only have a moderate effect. Self-evaluation is still not central to the process. Unless schools play a bigger role, there is a danger that staff will simply heave a sigh of relief when the inspectors de-

part, rather than setting to work on the necessary changes. Good schools benefit from inspection because they already constantly monitor what they do and are used to making modifications. Failing schools find that a bad report galvanises their local authorities into action on their behalf. But mediocre schools receive little back-up after their inspections and may be left floundering. Without support, many such schools find it difficult to translate criticism into positive action. Under Ofsted's new regime, inspectors will continue to go into schools, pass judgements and go away. They leave behind staff who feel beleaguered, exhausted, and simply relieved that the whole business is over for another four years.

FRAN ABRAMS



Children at work: Crook Primary, Co Durham, after a traumatic time Photograph: North News

## Labour policies attacked by GPs

GLENDIA COOPER

The Labour Party's policy to abolish GP fundholding would lead to worsening patient care and a growth in private medicine, with a "black market" in health care developing, fundholding GPs said yesterday. Their criticism came as Bupa, the country's biggest health insurance company, launched the first "private GP" scheme. Subscribers to the scheme, called Health Direct, will pay £6 a month for unlimited advice from GPs over the telephone. Visits will cost £30, with surgeries open as late as 9pm. Patients will meet the full cost of any drugs prescribed. Aimed at London commuters, the pilot is based in Reading and covers Berkshire, south Oxfordshire and north Hampshire, but if successful it could be introduced nationally. Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the GPs' committee for the BMA, described the Bupa plan as "bad news" for the health service. "This is two-tierism by ability to pay," he said. "It's an alarming development." But a spokeswoman for Bupa said the company was "relieving the burden of care on some GP services... Fewer people will be troubling their family doctor." And Dr Rhidian Morris, chairman of the National Association of Fundholding Practices, urged Labour to think again over their commitment to phase out fundholding, otherwise the private sector would be able to take over an increasing amount of primary care. Fundholding gives GPs, rather than the local health authority, the cash to pay for hospital and community services for their patients. Nearly one in three practices in England and Wales is now fundholding. Mr Morris said no party had promised more money for the NHS and where strict controls had been imposed in other countries, particularly eastern Europe, "they had developed a black market in health care".

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## politics

MP's defection: Loud cheers as Labour's latest recruit crosses the floor

## Howarth wins rebuke in new role

JOHN RENTOUL  
Political Correspondent

Alan Howarth, elected three years ago as the Conservative MP for Stratford-on-Avon, took his seat on the opposition benches yesterday to loud Labour cheers.

While in the Commons, he collected "probably 25" letters from Tory MPs, "not at all endorsing my decision, but people have been kind enough to respect my integrity", he said.

The symbolic moment of crossing the floor of the House - the first time an MP has gone from Tory to Labour - was timed to embarrass Michael Heseltine as he rose to take his first question time as Deputy Prime Minister.

But Mr Howarth later fluffed his first words from the Labour side, being rebuked by Michael Morris, a deputy speaker, for asking six questions instead of one when he intervened in the speech of Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, whose party conference speech "of extraordinary xenophobia and anti-foreigner prejudice" Mr Howarth said confirmed his decision to change parties.

Mr Portillo returned the in-

sult by noting that Mr Howarth had become "no less verbose in his transition to the other side of the House". But he did not answer his question, about the dangers of British industry depending so heavily on arms exports.

Mr Howarth is the proud possessor of a Labour Party membership card, but is not yet technically a Labour MP, because he is waiting for his application to take the Labour whip to be approved. But he was warmly welcomed by all the Labour MPs he met.

Before his debut in the Commons, he had lunch as an honorary Labour MP, under the glare of the television camera lights, with Peter Snape and Dennis Turner, leaders of the West Midlands group of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Mr Howarth then had to brave the photographers, the compliments of Labour MPs and mixed responses of Tories, as he entered the Palace of Westminster in the Labour interest. "I got up this morning and looked at the table - they informed me I was going to have to run a gauntlet of hate. But it wasn't really like that," he said.

Mr Snape ushered his new



New Labour: Tory party defector Alan Howarth (centre) arriving at the House of Commons yesterday with the Labour MP Dennis Turner  
Photograph: Geraint Lewis

colleague into the tea room, the MPs' inner sanctum, where he "crossed the room" rather than the floor by sitting at the Labour end near the door. "I have never been poured so many cups of tea," he said.

Other practical arrangements

had to be discussed as Parliament reopened for business after the three-month summer recess. Mr Howarth has an office in the Palace, which he is likely to retain. And he said his secretary, Patricia Constant, would be true to her name.

Mr Howarth, whose defection was announced the Sunday before Tory conference in an elaborate media operation, already sounds like a partisan Labour MP. Last weekend he accused the Tories of peddling "smears and lies" against him.

## Defector's entrance sweeps away 'Sooty'

Labour uses questions to Heseltine to introduce ex-Tory MP ■ Members pay tribute to former prime minister

Mr Hain demanded to know why Mr Heseltine's title on the Commons order paper had been changed from First Secretary of State in the summer to Deputy Prime Minister now. Would it be surrogate party chairman next and shouldn't his salary be partly funded by Central Office - or couldn't Central Office afford it?

Combining his question with a welcome for Mr Howarth, John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said: "Since you took charge of deregulation and

is the one of my honourable friend... who saw through the Labour Party long before their own leaders flirted with social democracy and ended up serving his country as a minister in a Conservative government."

Raising a familiar refrain, David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, rose to ask whether Mr Heseltine would resign if there was no improvement in government, or was he going to have one more try at getting the job he really wanted. Mr Heseltine declared that Mr Winnick had overlooked the "cynicism of your own party conference, which saw the leadership of your party for as long as I've been in active politics - a total and cynical abdication of everything that most Labour MPs believe in". To see the concept of new Labour, with Mr Howarth and Dennis Skinner, the Bolsover leftwinger, on the same side of the House was a "mesmerising thought".

It will go down as one of those Commons shows that never quite lived up to its advance billing ground.

INSIDE  
PARLIAMENT  
Patricia  
Wynn Davies

competition policy, we've seen a record number of new regulations, a record number of business failures and Britain has slipped five places in the world competitive league. Isn't it about time on your own policies that the hop-along deputy shouted 'about turn'?"

Declaring the joke "pathetic", Mr Heseltine said he would have hoped a good deal better had he been abandoning his principles and policies, but still felt driven to rake up the past of the junior public service minister, John Horgan, sitting a few feet away. "I think there is a better journey," Mr Heseltine loftily declared as if the direction lessened the crime. "That

Ms turned to paying their respects to former Tory Prime Minister Lord Home of Hirsell, who did last week aged 92. Leading the tributes, John Major said he was "one of those people who light up politics with their integrity". For Tony Blair, the Labour leader, he was "a man of honour who stayed a man of honour... not a man from another age, but a rarity in any age".

## Elite forces to form joint rapid deployment unit

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY  
Defence Correspondent

Britain's fastest-moving elite forces including Royal Marines, paratroops and elements of the SAS are to be placed under a new command designed to enable them to intervene more swiftly and effectively around the world, Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, said yesterday.

The "Joint Rapid Deployment Force" will be available from August next year for operations on behalf of the UK, Nato, the Western European Union - European countries in Nato - or the United Nations. Rather than cobbling forces together at the last minute in response to crises, the units from all three services, will have

trained together to enable quicker deployment.

An implementation team under a Royal Marines brigadier, Jonathan Thomson, is being formed to finalise the formation of the JRDF by 1 August 1996.

The force will be based on 10,000 troops of the 3rd Commando Brigade, based at Plymouth, and the 5th Airborne Brigade, based at Aldershot. The Marines' Special Boat Service and the SAS can also be placed under command of the new force headquarters.

These units have proved too lightly equipped for operations such as those in Bosnia and the JRDF headquarters will be able to reinforce them with armoured battle groups, each about 1,000-strong, with tanks and Warrior infantry fighting ve-

hicles. Support helicopters, Hercules aircraft, naval ships, civilian ships and aircraft may also be available to the force.

The idea for the force was announced by the then Secretary of State for Defence, Malcolm Rifkind, last July. A joint headquarters to mastermind operations round the world is being set up at Northwood, Middlesex. The MoD said recent announcements on the purchase of Chinook and EH101 support helicopters and C-130J Hercules transport planes "all have relevance" to the new force. So do new amphibious ships. The new commando helicopter carrier, HMS Ocean, was launched on the Clyde last Wednesday, and is now being fitted out at Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering at Barrow-in-Furness.

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## Accused Briton fears drug gang will kill family

STEPHEN VINES  
Singapore

John Martin Scripps, the 35-year-old Briton accused of murdering a South African and two Canadians, gave evidence for the first time yesterday in Singapore's Supreme Court.

He claimed that members of his family could be killed by a drugs gang if he revealed the name of an accomplice who, he alleges, disposed of the body of his South African victim.

Mr Scripps, who is also known as John Martin, admitted that he killed Gerard George Lowe, 32, a South African brewery employee who was holidaying in Singapore. However, he claimed that Mr Lowe's body was "disarticulated" by an unnamed British "friend" who he said was an associate from the past when he "was doing drugs".

He claimed he would be labelled as a "grass" if he named the man, who he alleges is involved in a number of criminal activities and was supposed to have helped him buy clothes for

a shop that he was opening in Mexico.

Speaking hesitantly, and barely audible, Mr Scripps told the court: "I know what these people are capable of. I just can't give the person's name. It's my life or my family's. I suppose it will have to be mine."

His lawyer, Edmond Pereira, is trying to establish that Mr Lowe's murder was unpremeditated. Mr Scripps has denied killing two Canadians, Sheila Damude, 49, and her son Darin, 23 - in the Thai resort of Phuket. However, yesterday he admitted - for the first time - that he had met the couple and shared a taxi with them from the airport to the hotel where he occupied an adjacent room and, after they disappeared, moved into their room.

The court has heard evidence that the bodies of the Damudes were expertly chopped up, as was the body of Mr Lowe. A British witness has also testified how he taught butchery skills to Mr Scripps while he was in prison.

However, Mr Scripps said: "I

didn't cut the body up. I've worked in a butcher's but this is totally different."

He claims that he accidentally killed Mr Lowe with a 3.3lb hammer after he woke up to find the South African touching his backside and smiling at him. The two men had met at Singapore's international airport and Mr Scripps said he agreed to share a hotel room with him because accommodation was hard to obtain and he wanted to save money. "I just freaked out," he said. "I've had experience of such things in the past and I was very frightened."

He claimed that an Israeli soldier tried to rape him while he was in an Israeli prison in 1978 for non-payment of a fine. Mr Scripps also said that two men attempted to rape him in prison in Britain last year while he was taking a shower. "I tried to fight. I locked myself in my cell for a couple of days after," he said. "I'm not gay. I don't believe in that sort of thing."

Mr Lowe's widow has testified that her husband is not gay. The trial continues.

## Givenchy classics bid Paris adieu



Swan song: Givenchy (left) at his final show which featured 'Sabrina' dresses (right)

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

TAMSIN BLANCHARD  
Paris

Hubert de Givenchy, the 68-year-old couturier who opened the House of Givenchy in 1952, bade his final goodbye yesterday with a collection of the classic pieces that have earned him a loyal following over the years.

Last July, there were tears on the catwalk and in the audience when one of the last great gentlemen of old school Paris couture received a standing ovation for his last *haute couture* collection. Yesterday, the atmos-

phere at the ready-to-wear collection for spring-summer '96 was not so emotionally charged. And even during his swansong, buyers, clients and press could not help but compare this gentle collection with the wild, fantastical and hyped-up show that Givenchy's British successor, John Galiano, presented the night before.

The spirit of Givenchy's great friend and muse, Audrey Hepburn, was with him as the music from *Breakfast at Tiffany's* played to accompany 1950s cocktail dresses with bell-

shaped skirts like those worn by the actress in the film *Sabrina*. There were also timeless column evening dresses that will no doubt continue to be worn and cherished by the women whose wardrobes have relied on Givenchy over the years, long into the new Galiano regime.

For the daytime, there were simple jersey dresses, classic

skirt suits and safari-style belted jackets with matching pants. There was also the classic nautical look that women love - soft cardigan jackets and twin-sets in navy and white, worn with

wide cream pants. Givenchy has always erred on the side of discreet good taste. He has always shown wearable clothes rather than show-stoppers and the clothes have been more important than the models wearing them. As a characteristically discreet salute to his friendship with Hollywood, there were suits printed with a scattering of stars.

His final bow was as low key and well-mannered as his collections. There was no hysteria, just a quiet and graceful wave goodbye.

## Strike threat to NHS trusts

BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

A hit list of "right-fisted" National Health Service trusts was yesterday targeted for industrial action over pay by leaders of more than 300,000 nurses and other health workers.

Unison, the largest health union, gave authority for ballots on disruption including strikes at 66 trusts which had failed to offer an increase of 3 per cent "without strings".

The strategy was announced after the union revealed a four-to-one vote in favour of a new bargaining structure which includes both an element of central and local negotiations.

Because national pay rates will be uprated with reference to local outcomes, the union revealed its intention to maximise offers by individual trusts.

Bob Abberley, head of health at Unison, said he was confident that local negotiations would yield 3 per cent, but said he was determined to back industrial action where trusts refused.

Some of the trusts had offered less than 3 per cent, while others had offered the increase to some staff only. Unison calculates that out of 521 trusts, 472 have made offers, 49 had to reveal their intentions and 66 were "unacceptable".

Under an offer this year nurses were awarded 1 per cent nationally with the opportunity to negotiate up to 2 per cent more at local level.

A deal to establish a framework for negotiations in future had attracted "overwhelming" support among the 325,000 members of Unison involved.

In the first part of a two-year cycle, pay rates will be thrashed out locally. In the second year, however, national minimum rates will be increased in line with local outcomes before further trust-based bargaining.

The Department of Health welcomed the union's endorsement of the formula, but said local offers were a matter for trust managers.

## Hansard 'should be on Net'

CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Correspondent

The daily proceedings and laws made by Parliament should be distributed freely over the Internet, replacing the present system which sells it commercially for at least £2,500 a year, the Campaign for Freedom of Information says. Its views were backed by the Labour Party, which said it was "ludicrous" that the proceedings were not more widely available.

The Campaign also warns that the growing availability of machines which can scan the

contents of documents on to computers means that the copyright of Her Majesty's Stationery Office on parliamentary proceedings will be broken anyway "sooner rather than later".

Maurice Frankel, the Campaign's director, says that HMSO practices "unacceptable commercial exploitation" by selling the contents of Hansard to interested parties. A single day's copy costs £11.70. The Campaign points out that in the US, "there is no copyright in official information" and that the American equivalent of Hansard is easily available on

the public computer network. Graham Allen, Labour MP for Nottingham North, said that the party wanted everybody to be able to access the Internet, but he did not promise free access.

Compiling Hansard costs millions of pounds each year, but HMSO, like other government agencies, has come under increasing pressure in the past decade to charge for commercial use of its information. Agencies such as HMSO and the Ordnance Survey generate revenues of about £150m annually from sales of data collected by public funds.

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## WASHINGTON RALLY

## A 'million' black men march on the capital

JOHN CARLIN  
Washington

"There is nothing more painful to me," Jesse Jackson said a couple of years ago, "than to walk down the street and hear footsteps and start thinking about robbery, then to look around and see someone white and feel relieved."

Mr Jackson's famously candid remark goes to the heart of the predicament black American men sought to address in their Million Man gathering in Washington yesterday. It also went to the heart of my predicament as I ventured, a solitary paleface, into the alien throng.

I was living, on the surface of things, white America's ultimate urban nightmare. Never mind the footsteps. I had black men to the right of me, black men to the left, black men behind and black men ahead. Hundreds of thousands of them flowing up and down the mile-long Mall, between the National Monument obelisk and the domed Capitol.

It felt comfortable. Conspicuous as I was, hardly anybody gave me a second glance. Those who did nodded and smiled, as if to reassure me. No one muttered a racist comment. I felt as if I'd stumbled into a giant family picnic.

Vendors sold T-shirts, car-stickers, necklaces and quasi-African medicinal potions. Every third man appeared to be holding a camera. One posed in front of the National Monument with a fist held high in a black power salute and a big grin on his face. The elderly men sat on the Mall's park benches; some of the younger ones lay down on the grass. A lot were eating hamburgers and hot dogs and chocolate biscuits.

After 10 minutes I saw my first white man, a beggar with three days' growth of beard and a torn baseball cap. He went up to a group of half a dozen young black men. He said something to them. One reached into a bag and handed him an apricot pie.

Then I saw a white policeman reclining on a motorbike. A young marcher greeted him and asked if he would pose for a picture. The policeman



Raising their voices: Blacks on the march taking part in a chant during the rally on the Washington Mall

Photograph: Ron Thomas/Reuters

smiled, the young man held the policeman's hand in a comradely grip and another man took the photograph. So much for the all-policemen-are-racists conclusion that black people are supposed to have taken away from the OJ Simpson trial. A couple of other marchers observed the scene with quizzical disapproval, but there was no sign that they planned to exact any retribution, verbal or otherwise.

This was what the T-shirts said: "We've lost more brothers to our own than to the Klu Klux Klan"; "I am my brother's keeper"; "Dare to keep kids off drugs"; "The black man is back"; "If you think all black men are criminals, dope-pushers, wife-beaters ... then YOU'RE WRONG!"; "After

400 years of slavery and oppression we have identified our enemy ... IT IS US!"

Half a dozen white demonstrators were standing under a tree, holding banners saying: "We are against all racism - black and white". Evidently they had a problem with Louis Farrakhan, the anti-Semitic Nation of Islam leader who organised yesterday's event. Black men shook their heads and posed for group pictures.

Attracting almost as much attention was a man in a suit wearing a yellow button which read "Operation Big Vote". He handed out forms and asked marchers to sit down for a minute and register to vote. Other "Operation Big Vote" activists were doing a busy trade all over the Mall amphitheatre.

If there was one thing these marchers were not doing, it was planning revolution. They were not bowing out of the system. They were gearing up to turn out in greater numbers at next year's presidential elections, thereby giving their stamp of legitimacy to the political establishment that some of their leaders so deride.

During the morning warm-ups, speakers whose faces nobody recognised kept up a constant babble. Some of them engaged in a little race-baiting: "We're not at work today. Mr Charlie's gotta find someone else to fix his garden today!" A nice lady from Operation Big Vote explained that "Mr Charlie" usually meant a white cop, but it could also just mean any white guy.

But most early speakers tapped into the benign mood of atonement and spiritual regeneration which, corny as it might sound, was the reason most men gave for turning up.

"The difference with 1963," one said, "is that we're dealing not with a physical problem - not with segregation - we're dealing with a mental and economic problem. We have to go away with a message of love. We have to go home to our families with love." Those listening in the crowd applauded.

Then I spoke to a couple of people. One was called Tom, the other Archie. Tom, 63, said he had been passed over for jobs all his life because of the colour of his skin. "I'm here because I don't want what happened to me to happen to any man of

colour." Was he bitter? "Yes. I'm bitter, real bitter."

It was almost a relief to find someone who didn't sound as if he'd eaten happy pills for breakfast. But then Tom ruined it by saying that he had no problem with white folks in general, just some: "You know, the best friend I ever had was a white man from Brooklyn."

As for Archie, who was 32 and wore black glasses and a raincoat, he insisted that the march was "not about colour". Come again, I said. "No, it's not about colour and it's not about Islam and it's not about Farrakhan," explained Archie, who said he was an unpublished writer of short stories about the urban experience. "We're not going to behave in a racist way and stoop to the level of those

we criticise. It's about dealing with ourselves. It's about recognising that black women have been the backbone of black men for too long. This is about saying to ourselves we must stand up on our own two feet and make our families and our communities fruitful."

Was it working? "I've never felt this electricity before. You see that guy over there? Ordinarily I would be afraid to catch his eye because he might attack me. Now, look, we smile."

Electricity was not really the word. The atmosphere was too mellow. It was a vast exercise in group therapy. Black American men were feeling good about themselves. They were hearing plenty of black footsteps, and they were not afraid.

## 'Nation' mirrors its leader

RUPERT CORNWELL  
Washington

The Nation of Islam, the sect headed by the leader of yesterday's Million Man March, is in the image of Louis Farrakhan himself: conservative but militant, propounding family values with the zeal of a Dan Quayle, yet ever ready to resort to mysticism, pseudo-science and hate-dripping rhetoric to press its message of black separatism.

On the public platform, Louis Farrakhan and his lieutenants denounce Jews and Catholics, claiming that the white race was created 6,000 years ago by a black scientist called Yakub, and that AIDS and drugs are plagues engineered by whites to decimate the black race. As they do so they are flanked by bodyguards drawn from the Nation's own paramilitary guard, called the Fruit of Islam - sinister young men turned out in well-cut suits, gleaming white shirts and neat coloured bow ties.

But even Farrakhan's enemies acknowledge the effectiveness of the programmes against drugs and crime run by the Nation in depressed inner-city neighbourhoods.

The Nation's historic home is New York and Harlem, the fief of Elijah Muhammad, the sect's most famous leader, who died in 1975.

Louis Farrakhan himself joined the Nation of Islam in 1955, a protégé of Malcolm X, with whom he later fell out. Malcolm X was murdered in a Harlem ballroom on 21 February 1965.

Upon Elijah Muhammad's death, leadership passed to his son, Warith Deen (Wallace) Muhammad. But he broke with Louis Farrakhan and set up his own group, Al Islam, to which the boxers Muhammad Ali and the recently-freed Mike Tyson belong.

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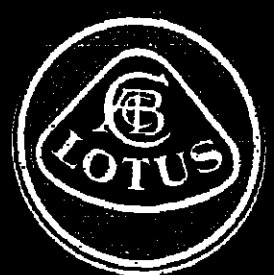
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## international

Balkan turning point: Zagreb poised for assault on Eastern Slavonia □ Warring armies silence guns in Bosnia

## Croat troops threaten last Serbian enclave

TONY BARBER  
Europe Editor

Croat tanks and troops took up positions only 12 miles from the Serb-held enclave of eastern Slavonia yesterday in what may herald an offensive to recapture the last piece of Croatian territory in Serb hands. United Nations officials in Zagreb said it was premature to predict a Croat attack, but evidence is accumulating that President Franjo Tudjman has decided force is the best way to solve the problem of eastern Slavonia.



Tudjman: Delivering daily warnings of an offensive

At last Saturday's convention of his ruling party, the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), he said: "We will do everything to restore these areas to the constitutional and legal system of Croatia in a peaceful way, above all because we do not want fresh casualties and because every drop of Croat blood and every Croatian life is precious... But if we cannot do this, then we will use all means to which a sovereign state has the right."

The words were almost identical to those Mr Tudjman used before Operation Storm, the offensive last August in which Croat forces swept aside Serb resistance in the Krajina region. Negotiations between the Croatian government and the Serbs of east Slavonia have made little progress, with Croatia

rejecting Serb appeals for a five-year transitional period before the region's final status is settled.

In another hint that an offensive may be imminent, the Foreign Minister, Mate Granic, said last week: "We are ready for talks with Croatian Serbs from eastern Slavonia, but not for any buying of time. The deadline is firmly decided and is very close now."

Croatia has said it will allow time for negotiations up to 30 November, when the UN peace-keeping mandate in Croatia expires. But Mr Tudjman could strike before then; the peace-keepers' presence proved no obstacle to the Croatian army when it took western Slavonia in May and the Krajina in August.

Mr Tudjman and his HDZ colleagues issue daily warnings of an offensive on eastern Slavonia at rallies for Croatia's 29 October general election. The HDZ is guaranteed victory, partly because of Croatia's military successes, but also because Mr Tudjman rushed a new election law through parliament last month, tipping the scales in his party's favour.

The law gives the vote to almost 400,000 Croats abroad, most of whom are in Bosnia. Since the HDZ's Bosnian satellite party dominates Bosnian Croat politics, most Bosnian Croats seem certain to vote for Mr Tudjman's party in the Croatian election.

Another more ominous implication of treating Bosnian Croats as part of Croatia's electorate is that Mr Tudjman may be preparing the ground for the merger of Bosnian Croat territory into a greater Croatia. The new election law greatly diminishes the status of Serbs in Croatia, as it guarantees only three seats in parliament for national minorities, down from the previous 13.



Shopping development: Sanela Kellec, a Muslim, rests outside her future boutique in recently retaken Donji Vakuf

Photograph: David Bruach/AP

## UN general says ceasefire is holding

ANGUS MACSWAN  
Reuters

Sarajevo — General Rupert Smith, the UN Bosnia commander, was said last night to be satisfied the ceasefire is holding along 80 per cent of the front line.

A UN spokesman said he believed continued fighting in the north-west did not threaten the peace talks due to start later this month.

Preparations for those talks were getting under way in Moscow yesterday as envoys of the big-power Contact Group gathered to discuss their strategy for the initial US-sponsored negotiations.

There had been concern that the fighting in north-west Bosnia between government and Serb forces was making a mockery of the ceasefire. But the UN spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Vernon, said the ceasefire was holding

well along the confrontation line, and that while fighting continued in the north-west, no land had been gained.

Col Vernon said Gen Smith "is happy that the ceasefire is holding along 80 per cent of the confrontation line... He believes the military situation on the ceasefire does not now jeopardise the overall [US envoy Richard] Holbrooke peace agreement and the proximity talks that are scheduled."

In Moscow, envoys of the Contact Group — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany — mapped out their strategy for the talks on 31 October.

According to Germany, the Moscow meeting will define Russia's role in an international peace force being put together by Nato. The Russians are refusing to contribute troops if the force is solely under Nato command.

In Bosnia, Serb leaders were locked in a power struggle as the Bosnian Serb parliament, angry at battlefield losses, demanded the dismissal of generals loyal to the army commander, General Ratko Mladic. A session of parliament in the north-west town of Banja Luka accepted the resignation of the figurehead prime minister, Dusan Kozic, as a scapegoat for military defeats.

The more significant demand for the dismissal of four generals by deputies of the ruling Serb Democratic Party appeared to signal the revival of a power struggle between the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, and Gen Mladic.

The call for the removal of Generals Milan Gvero, Zdravko Tolimir, Djordje Djokic and Goran Bogar followed charges by Mr Karadzic that the military were to blame for losing 11 towns and 1,500 square miles in north-west Bosnia to government and Croat troops. Last August, Mr Karadzic tried to dismiss Gen Mladic but had to back down when other generals pledged loyalty to him.

In September, Gen Mladic's supporters accused Bosnian Serb political leaders of secretly agreeing to withdrawal from those areas which the Serbs would have to give up anyway under an international peace plan.

The plan offers the Serbs 49 per cent of Bosnian territory, compared with the 70 per cent that they controlled until late this summer.

A UN refugee official said yesterday that Serb troops appeared ready to finish off a round of forced expulsions of Muslims from Serb-held areas of north-west Bosnia that was interrupted by the recent Bosnian government offensive.

The campaign, spearheaded by the notorious Serb paramilitary leader Zeljko "Arkan" Raznatovic, drove out thousands of Muslims from Serb-held areas around Banja Luka, Prijedor, Sanski Most and Bosanski Novi last week.

## Claes in last effort to keep Nato job

SARAH HELM  
Brussels

In a final effort to save his skin, Willy Claes, the Nato Secretary-General, yesterday asked to address the Belgian parliament when it meets, probably on Thursday, to decide whether to send him for trial on corruption charges.

Still refusing to heed the growing calls for his resignation, Mr Claes clearly hopes that he can influence the vote in the parliament by protesting his innocence in person, disavowing any knowledge of kick-backs allegedly paid by the Agusta helicopter company to his Flemish Socialist Party when he was economics minister.

On Saturday, a parliamentary commission ruled that there was enough evidence against Mr Claes to lift his immunity from prosecution as an ex-minister. The commission's recommendation is now before parliament, which alone has the power to send a minister for trial.

At Nato headquarters yesterday, the alliance's 16 ambassadors, gathered for the first time since the sudden eruption of "Willygate", remained publicly silent about what the secretary-general should do. Privately, officials are making it clear that time has now run out for Mr Claes.

Alliance leaders are intensifying their search for a successor in the expectation that Mr Claes will be gone before the end of the week. At the same time, contenders who want to lobby for the job are beginning to emerge from the shadows.

The front-runner is Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the former Danish foreign minister. He is believed to be pushing his candidature hard and is favoured by the US, as well as European alliance members. Hans van den Broek, EU foreign affairs commissioner, is also said to be keen on the job, but he is believed in Washington to be too closely associated with what the US regards as the EU's feeble policy towards former Yugoslavia.

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Poverty in rural Portugal still forces parents to set their children to work, reports Elizabeth Nash



Labour of love? Children helping out in the vineyards of the Douro valley, northern Portugal

Photograph: Piers Cavendish/Impact

## Child labour thrives in wine country

Braga — Francisco Jose da Silva was only 13 when he died. The engraving on his headstone, near Braga, in Portugal's northern Minho region, reads: "Jesus called me from this world. My time had come. Destiny was to blame. Not Mr Mora's factory."

The couple, paid for by the employer to mollify Francisco's family, is rare testimony to the widespread but hidden practice of child labour in one of the least developed corners of Europe. Statistics are hard to come by. Trade unionists in Braga reckon there could be tens of thousands, but government inspectors find fewer than 200 a year. Nearly all the 95 factories fined last year for employing children — a civil offence in Portugal — were from around Braga.

The area known as the Vale do Ave has the country's lowest wages, highest unemployment rate, and the densest proportion of women and children in Europe. A rural area famed for its *vinho verde*, in the mid-1980s the Vale do Ave experienced a boom in factories employing unskilled labour for making and finishing clothes and shoes.

Recession has thrown this precarious economy into crisis. The valley is dotted with abandoned factories, some little more than garages, and the mostly female workers are trickling back to the land. Adao Mendes, of the General Workers' Confederation in Braga, said 30,000 jobs in the area have gone in six years.

"A few years ago I had difficulty getting workers during the harvest," said Eulalia Moreno, a wine grower whose vineyard is near Braga. "They preferred to work in the factory. But now they offer to work for me for less than the legal minimum of 52,000 escudos [£260] a month."

She adds: "Two years ago I bought granite paving stones for my patio. The stones were unloaded by children, some only eight years old. Their little hands were calloused, the insides of their nostrils white with dust."

I went with her as she visited the quarry owner's house to inquire about more stone. One of the young sons glanced to the side and said the quarry had been covered with soil seven years ago and was now being farmed.

Amerigo Monteiro, of the Commercial Workers Union in Braga, a member of the National Confederation for Action on Child Labour, said: "There are no clear statistics because the activity is clandestine. As the number of cases discovered increased, the practice has been driven further underground. Government statistics say the trend is downwards, but in my opinion things have not improved."

As factories have closed, Mr Mendes said, families are increasingly doing piece-work at home, out of reach of government inspectors. "The employers take shoe or garment pieces to be stitched or finished in the family home, and collect the products at the end of the week. The parents collude in the illegal employment of their children, not only from economic necessity, but from a traditional belief that it is part of becoming an adult."

Maria Pereira da Lima, who has the sturdy beauty typical of *minhota* women, has 10 children, aged from 20 to 14 months. They live in a two-room house with cement walls in the village of Brito, near Braga. Two of her sons, Gabriel, 13,

and Joao Carlos, 12, worked in a local garment factory for two years until it closed last year.

The boys said they worked from 8.30am to 12.30pm, threading cords through the waistbands of tracksuit trousers, and earned 5,000 escudos a month. They said they liked it, and would jump into the surrounding scrubland when the inspector came round.

"I let them go to the factory," Donha Maria explained, "because they were secure there and not roaming the streets, getting into trouble. Also they were learning something useful. If they stayed at school they'd only learn English, and what's the point of that? They'll never go to England."

Her daughter, Elisabeth, 20, started in the factory at 12 as a machinist and now earns 75,000 escudos a month, which she gives to her mother. Did Donha Maria regret illegally depriving her children of education? "No. We needed the money. But Elisabeth now asks me why I didn't let her stay at school, so I promised that Maria Mameia" — an eight-year-old scrap edges forward — "would stay on, because she's too fragile for factory work."

The governing Socialists are thinking of shifting responsibility for child labour from the labour ministry to that of education. But Mr Monteiro sees no quick fix. "There won't be a solution until families' economic situation is improved, and there is a change in a culture that sees child labour as normal and acceptable," he said.

## Russia's red rising star worries West

PHIL REEVES  
Moscow

Several hundred American businessmen will convene tomorrow in a Moscow hotel to listen to a man who not long ago would have been about as appealing to the average capitalist as the tax inspector. But these days few serious players in the new Russia would miss the chance to find out more about Gennady Zyuganov, the country's most powerful Communist.

Four years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the fortunes of once-reviled Communists are rising so much so that they and their allies are expected to emerge as the strongest political group in December's parliamentary elections.

Opinion surveys place Mr Zyuganov's party in the lead, comfortably ahead of the democrats and anyone associated with the unpopular President, Boris Yeltsin. This month Communists swept the board in local elections to the central city of Volgograd. Even his political opponents admit Mr Zyuganov is doing well; few would be surprised to see him running for president when Mr Yeltsin's term expires next year.

"People are anxious to hear what he has to say, and especially what his attitude to business will be," said Sean Wood, spokesman for the American Chamber of Commerce, which is billing the party 51-year-old politician as its featured speaker at tomorrow's meeting.

Anxiety is understandable, as the record of Mr Zyuganov's party is contradictory. On one hand, he is seen as a moderate whose aides have gone to pains



Zyuganov: quotes St Paul but has a hardline past

privately to convince the West that he has no plans to reverse moves towards the free market and democracy. He occasionally quotes St Paul (not a favourite with his hardline forefathers), pointing out that religious belief is not an obstacle to party membership.

On the other hand, he was a member of the Soviet Central Committee's propaganda department and is a former board member of the banned *Den* (The Day), a hardline newspaper with a record for occasional anti-Semitism. His party, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF), is reported still to include some unreconstructed Stalinists.

Nor do the party's policies, which have a strong nationalist flavour, appeal to democratic palates: its brochure talks wistfully of returning to the former Soviet Union, reversing privatisation and restoring price controls. Yet it has more members (it claims 550,000) than its rivals, and enjoys the advantage of a grassroots organisation — a legacy of Soviet times. Its support is strongest among the elderly, who are expected to vote in disproportionate numbers.

The prospect of a Communist resurgence last week prompted Yegor Gaidar, a leading reformer, to issue a passionate warning. Do not assume that Russians reforms are irreversible or that the Communists are benign, he said: "The party is shifting not from red to pink but from red to brown" — a reference to Mr Zyuganov's strategy of appealing to Russia's popular nationalist sentiments.

"If our Communist Party were a good, charming reformist party of a social-democratic nature," he went on, "then I would not attach any importance to the elections. But it requires enormous ignorance to confuse our Communist Party with the reformist parties of Eastern Europe."

The Communists might not be able to do much damage; the State Duma (the lower house) has limited powers. But Western diplomats admit to having no real idea what would happen if Mr Zyuganov were to become the top man in the Kremlin.

## Kohl insists on a hard EU currency

TOM HENEGHAN  
Reuters

Karlsruhe — Germany's post-war democracy would be in danger if the European Union produced a single currency that was unstable and inflation-prone, Chancellor Helmut Kohl told the opening session of the Christian Democrats' annual congress yesterday.

Bonn would insist on strict adherence to the tough Maastricht criteria for a single currency, he said, no matter what other member countries wanted. Mr Kohl also promised to throw all his political weight behind the European unity drive.

Delegates saw this as a heavy hint that he wanted to run for re-election in 1998, to see through the planned launch of economic and monetary union the following year. Mr Kohl, 65, has coyly declined to state his intentions.

The Chancellor, recalling how inflation destroyed public faith in democracy before Hitler took power in 1933, said stable money was not "just another issue" for Germans. To loud applause from about 1,000 delegates and guests, including the President of the European Commission, Jacques Santer, he added: "So, dear friends in Europe, it is not some German hysteria if we stress again and again ... that the Maastricht treaty stability criteria must be maintained and not questioned."

This is a question of the very destiny of German democracy, [as we can see] from the experiences of the century now drawing to a close."

Arguing that Germany had to push for a united Europe, Mr Kohl said: "No matter what is being whispered in the corridors of power in European capitals or being said in parliaments, we are sticking to this course."

Mr Kohl, who often departs from his prepared text, left out a passage warning that Germans could turn away from their traditional pro-European stand if the EU's monetary union produced an unstable and inflation-prone currency. But delegates said his *ad hoc* warnings about threats to German democracy and Europe drifting apart if it did not follow the Maastricht timetable made his appeal just as dramatic.

Under the Maastricht treaty, EU member countries must trim their deficits to 3 per cent of gross domestic product and cut total debt to a maximum 60 per cent of GDP but there is no provision for ensuring these levels are maintained after EMU's planned start in 1999.

Delegates said the Chancellor's oratory showed he wanted to run again in 1998, although he sidestepped the issue in his speech. Mr Kohl, Europe's longest-serving leader, is all but unchallenged, both within his party and in Bonn, after 13 years in power.

## Sweden's would-be PM fights charges

ANNIKA SAVILL  
Stockholm

Sweden's Social Democrats launched a strategy to save their prime minister-in-waiting yesterday. Mona Sahlin, defending herself against allegations of misuse of a government credit card, declared she would stay on as number two in the cabinet and would still run for the party leadership if "the party wants me to and if I want to."

Senior members of the party, reluctant to give up on the young and charismatic Ms Sahlin as Sweden's first woman prime minister, issued statements of support. Ms Sahlin then displayed all her media skills as she faced the press alone and denounced a tabloid campaign about her private finances. Asked if she would remain as Deputy Prime Minister, despite an investigation by public prosecutors, Ms Sahlin replied: "Of course. People are innocent until proven guilty."

Ms Sahlin, 38, who insists she paid back the government every krona each time she used the card, offered a passionate self-defence. "I may be careless with my life, but I'm sure as heck not careless with my politics ... and I'm sure as heck not dishonest. I fell behind on my finances in the 1980s. I did credit cards. I'm not alone in that."

She said she had been through campaigns against her



Sahlin: Still enjoys her party's backing

before, "including faeces and condoms in the mail, and yet I have loved every second of my life in politics."

She said that to succeed Ingvar Carlsson, when he retires in March, "I would need a lot of support. To me that means a vast, vast majority of the party. But that is not enough — it also depends on what I want and what my family wants."

It also depends on prosecutors clearing her of any criminal offence. As legal opinions differ on the legality of borrowing on the government card, and other politicians may have been following the same practice, a clean bill for Ms Sahlin appears quite possible.

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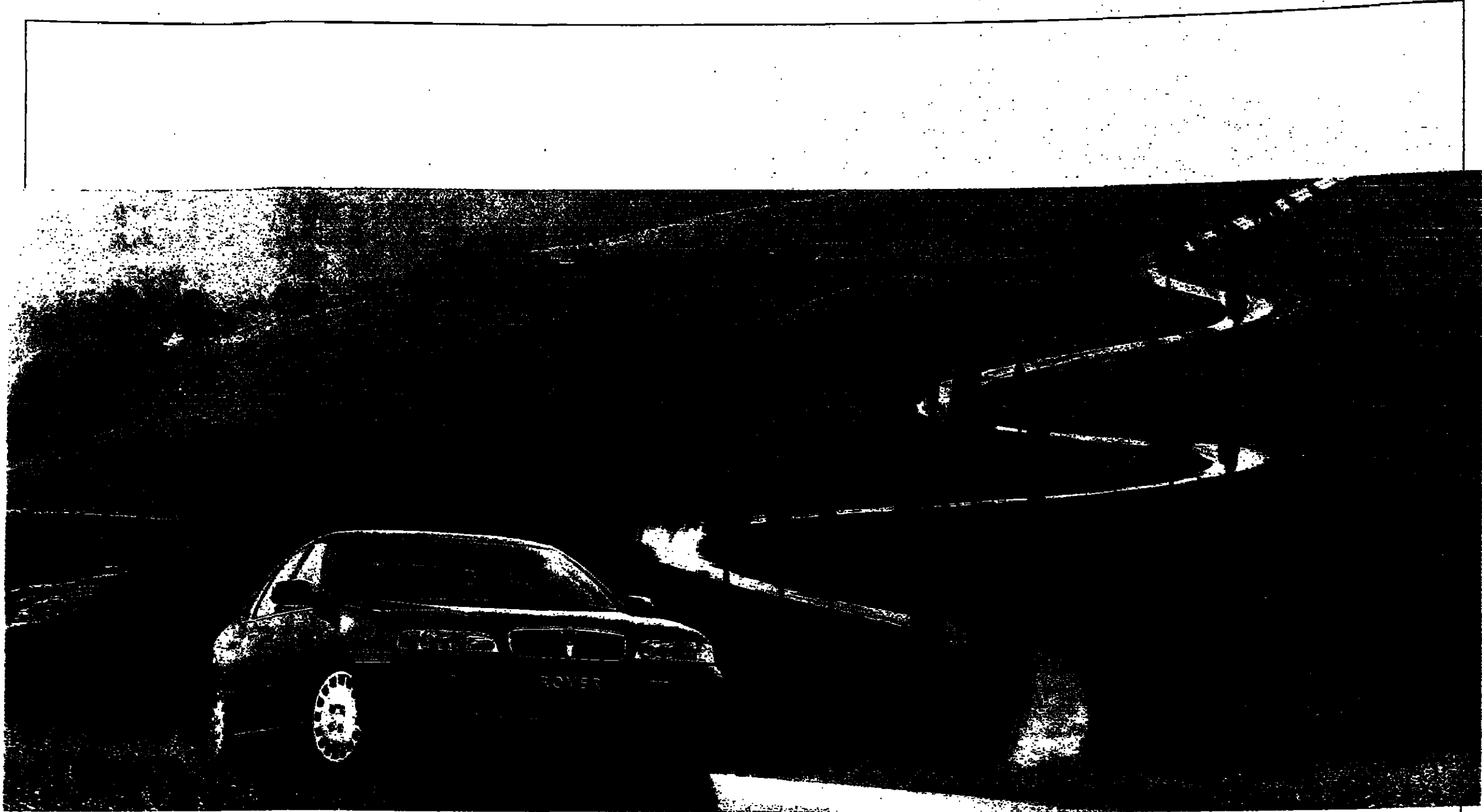
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سازمان تبلیغات



# Saddam fails to win 0.04% of vote

PATRICK COCKBURN  
Baghdad

A pigeon accidentally shot by a supporter of Saddam Hussein lay flapping on the ground in the courtyard of a block of flats in central Baghdad. It had mistimed its flight to coincide with the announcement that 99.96 per cent of the Iraqi people want Saddam to be their president for the next seven years.

The block is largely inhabited by members of the ruling Baath party, who ran to their balconies to fire their sub-machine guns and pistols into the air in celebration. Children sang songs in praise of President Saddam and some of their parents tossed money into the air. This is not as expensive as it would have been a few years ago, since the Iraqi dinar has fallen from three to the US dollar to 2,000 today.

Throughout the referendum, in which 8 million Iraqis trooped to the polls, Saddam Hussein remained largely invisible. The pictures on Iraqi television which show him waving to enthusiastic crowds are about five years old. There is a change, however, in the way in which the presenters refer to him. When President Saddam's name is mentioned they now invariably add: "May God preserve him and protect him." Only the Prophet Mohamed traditionally receives such treatment.



Fired up: An Iraqi man celebrating Saddam Hussein's referendum victory in the traditional manner as his wife covers the ears of their child

whenever the Russian delegation was using it.

There may have been a moment when President Saddam thought that the Gulf war coalition would break up. Russia and France would successfully oppose sanctions, Turkey would become restive about the loss of Iraqi trade. But if anything, the embargo is getting tighter. There are few trucks on the lifeline through Jordan, and Jordanian customs have got much tougher on smuggling.

At the same time, Iraq is not starving. There is malnutrition, but the government rationing system still works. The fields along the Tigris and the Euphrates are full of farmers, and there are more fruit and vegetables in the market than before sanctions. A kilo of figs costs about 18 pence but apples, which are grown beyond the Iraqi line in Kurdistan, cost sev-

en times as much. "Apples are for the rich," said one shopper.

This may explain why Iraq has rejected the UN Security Council plan for a limited sale of Iraqi crude oil under the partial control of the UN. Diplomats here argue that this shows Iraq still has the hard currency in secret foreign accounts to pay for just enough food to get by.

There are few overt signs of resentment. The only one in recent weeks was a bomb under the car of a diplomat at the Russian embassy - he had gone into the embassy a few minutes earlier. Moscow used to be a firm ally of President Saddam, and although it has done little for him in the last five years, nobody in Baghdad knows why its embassy should have been singled out for attack.

Sunday's referendum proves nothing but that the government has administrative

control, but it is no closer to breaking out of the political and economic siege than it was after it invaded Kuwait in 1990. A weak Iraq suits too many interests. Neither the US, Saudi Arabia nor Kuwait wants radical change in Baghdad, even if they want a new man at the top.

Ordinary Iraqis have a sense that they are at the mercy of events over which they have no control, and most are just scraping by. Open-air markets have developed in Baghdad as people buy and sell anything from furniture to piles of rags and broken plates. This makes it a

more human city than at the height of the oil boom, but also a despairing one. After eight years of war with Iran, followed by the embargo and the Gulf war, there is very little hope left. The only real ambition of most Iraqis is to survive.

Leading article, page 18

## Arafat frees his Hamas political rival

Gaza City — Yasser Arafat released a senior leader of the Muslim militant group Hamas as part of intensifying ceasefire negotiations with his political rivals. The Hamas leader, Sheikh Ahmed Bahar, had been arrested in June after a series of suicide bombings carried out by the group in Israel. The Lebanese army went on alert in south Lebanon amid fears of possible retaliation to guerrilla attacks that have killed nine Israeli soldiers since last week. General Antoine Lahd, chief of Israel's South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia ally, after talks with the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in south Lebanon, said Lebanon would "pay the price" if anti-Israeli guerrilla attacks continue. AP

## Cameroon to join the Commonwealth

Yaounde — Cameroon, the former Anglo-French territory in West Africa, took the day off yesterday to celebrate the news that it is to become the 52nd member of the Commonwealth on 1 November. President Paul Biya will join the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in New Zealand next month. Reuters

## Disgraced troops invaded royal suite

Toronto — A former member of Canada's disgraced and disbanded Airborne Regiment says he and fellow commandos ransacked a high-security royal suite at a Quebec City hotel during a visit by Princess Margaret in 1980. The regiment was disbanded after disclosure of several incidents in Somalia, including the torture and killing of a Somali teenager. AP

## Two more killed in Kenya ethnic riots

Nairobi — Riots erupted for a second day inside the Kibera district in the Kenyan capital and two people were killed. Two were killed on Sunday, triggering fighting between Luo and Nubians in the slum where 300,000 people live. It had political overtones as Luo dominate the Ford-Kenya opposition party while Nubians are seen as supporters of the ruling Kuuu party. Reuters

## 'Bomber' film star released on bail

New Delhi — Sanjay Dutt, an Indian film star jailed for two years in connection with 1993 explosions in Bombay that killed 317 people, was ordered to be released on bail. The Supreme Court overruled a lower court, which had denied him bail. AP

## Edison's first voice recording found

West Orange, New Jersey — Curators cataloguing millions of documents and devices that Thomas Edison left behind have turned up the earliest known recording of his voice. The wax cylinder was apparently made in 1888, when Edison was 41. AP

## Ciller cobbles up yet another coalition

Ankara (Reuters) — The Turkish Prime Minister, Tansu Ciller, moved towards patching together a temporary coalition government with her former social democratic partners yesterday in an attempt to stay in power until early elections.

"We have arrived at a certain agreement in principle on forming a coalition," she said after meeting the Republican People's Party (RPP) leader, Deniz Baykal. Ms Ciller later met

President Suleyman Demirel for 40 minutes, but it was unclear if he had given his approval for her proposed government. Mr Demirel was to meet other party leaders last night.

On Sunday the Prime Minister lost a vote of confidence in her 10-day-old minority government, which she had put together after the collapse of her coalition. Thirteen of her True Path Party deputies opposed her. The resignation of Istanbul's

hardline police chief, Necdet Menzir, opened the door for a reconciliation between the Prime Minister and the RPP. Her refusal to sack Mr Menzir, who had publicly criticised the party's human rights minister, brought down the four-year-old coalition on 20 September.

Istanbul shares jumped by 8.5 points after Ms Ciller announced her plan. Markets had started nervously following Sunday's vote.

## Ivory Coast leader stirs up his own opposition

DAVID ORR  
Abidjan

Opposition activists defied an Ivory Coast government ban on street rallies yesterday, marching through the town of Gagnoa demanding a boycott of Sunday's presidential election. Barricades were erected to halt traffic, and piles of tyres and cars were set on fire, but the security forces stayed away.

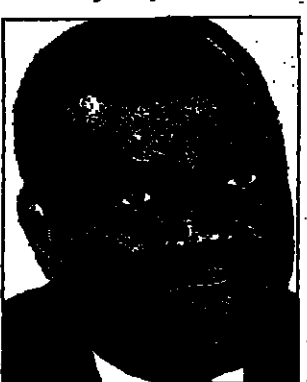
The socialist-leaning Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) and the Rally of the Republicans (RDR) — which broke away from the ruling Democratic Party (PDCI) last year — want the election postponed. They argue that the government should withdraw a new electoral law whose main victim has been the former prime minister Alassane Ouattara.

President Henri Konan Bedie has said there is no question of revising the law, which requires presidential candidates to have two Ivorian parents and to have lived continuously in Ivory Coast for five years. That rules out Mr Ouattara, the choice of the RDR, on two counts: his father was born in what is now Burkina Faso, while he has been working with the International Monetary Fund in Washington since last year.

While Mr Ouattara has been keeping a low profile, the FPI leader, Laurent Gbagbo, has become increasingly vocal in his calls for protest action. Demonstrations held earlier this month were the most violent seen in Ivory Coast since independence from France in 1960. Five people were killed in clashes with the security services.

Sunday's presidential poll and legislative elections on 26 November would normally have passed off without a murmur. Politics in Ivory Coast have usually been a placid business with few of the ethnic troubles which beset other African coun-

tries. Long one of West Africa's more stable nations, its economy is based on lucrative exports of cocoa and coffee, boosted by huge injections of French aid. For over three decades after independence, the presidency was held by the legendary Felix Houphouet-Boigny. The end of one-party rule in 1990 changed little, even though his death in 1993 was preceded by a slump as commodity prices fell. But the economy bounced back after the IMF and the World Bank engineered a 50 per cent devaluation of the French-backed Central African Franc in January last year.



Houphouet-Boigny: He still casts a shadow

Mr Bedie, the former Speaker of the National Assembly, has been acting as unelected head of state since the death of Mr Houphouet-Boigny. As his protégé, there has never been any real doubt about his electoral strength.

Why Mr Bedie should have been so insistent on the divisive electoral law is not clear. One theory is that, having been so long in the shadow of his mentor, he simply wanted to make his mark. Houphouet-Boigny's open-door policy produced a peaceful multi-cultural society, but Mr Bedie has decided to play the nationalist card. One of the most far-reaching effects

of the new law is to discriminate against the 4 million foreign Africans who make up a third of the population.

Instead of appearing strong and resolute, President Bedie has come across as heavy-handed and intolerant. His outlawing of political rallies and his refusal to entertain proposals for an independent electoral commission have further incensed the opposition. The result has been that he has given his rivals a campaign issue when they would otherwise have been hard pressed to find one.

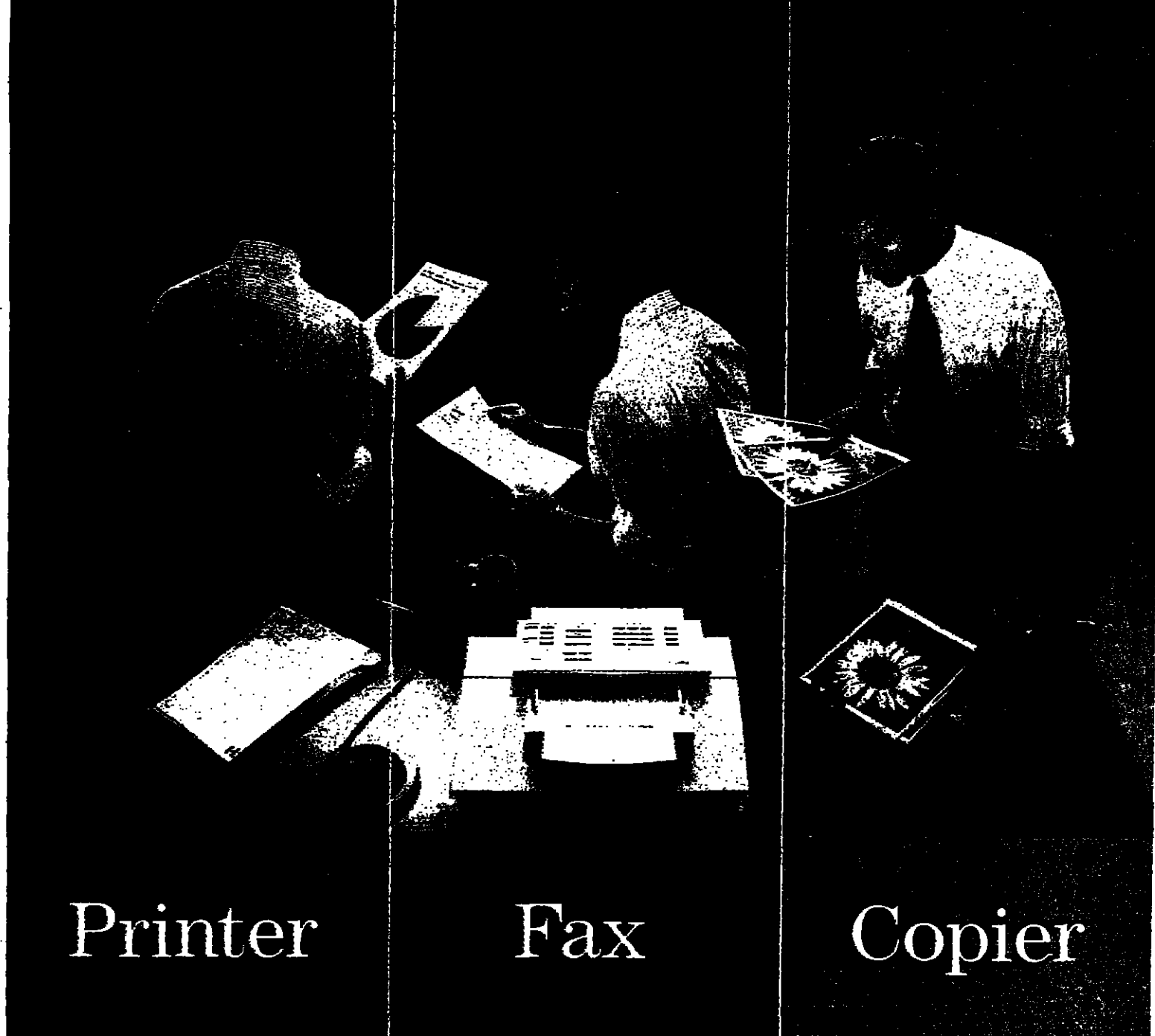
"In the absence of any real issues, the electoral code has become a symbol of everything the opposition would like to see changed," said one Western ambassador in Abidjan. "What they really want is new political blood, the end of corruption in government and a more open political dialogue."

The danger is not that Mr Bedie or his party might lose the elections. It is rather that his mandate to rule will be diminished if, in response to the opposition boycott, only a small percentage of the electorate turns out to vote.

Whatever the outcome, it is not expected that foreign investment will be affected. With an economic growth rate of 6.5 per cent expected for this year, Ivory Coast can boast the most vibrant economy in West Africa. "Productivity is up and there's room for expansion," says Pierre van den Boogaerde of the IMF in Abidjan. "Foreigners are beginning to look at this place seriously and this interest is, for the first time, going beyond the traditional French market to include the rest of Europe and the United States."

Bolstered by the robust economy, it is hard to imagine that President Bedie has that rough a ride ahead of him. But he seems to have an ability to erect his own obstacles without any prompting from the oppo-

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## obituaries / gazette

## The Ven Sam Woodhouse

It was a great surprise to Sam Woodhouse – and always remained so – when Robert Stopford offered him the Archdeaconry of London in 1967, and it caused some ruffling of feathers in the senior clerical dovetail in the London diocese. But Stopford had chosen wisely, and when Woodhouse retired 11 years later he was probably the best-loved Archdeacon in living memory – though for all his gentle manner he had an inner core of steel.

Son of a cavalry officer turned parson – he was a brilliant horseman – Sam Woodhouse never threw off the image of a country gentleman, nor

would have wanted to, but those who could see no further than that missed half the man. For he was that unusual mixture of someone whose totally traditional exterior masked a mind that was open and receptive to the ferment of new ideas which were enlivening the Church of England in his day.

A man of many parts – as a mountaineer he got as far as Camp One in an early Everest expedition – he trained abroad as an architect under Herbert Baker, before following his father into the Army, where he was commissioned into the Somerset Light Infantry. Before long, however, he felt, like his

father, the call to ordination, and went to a curacy in Lancaster, where he met and married Pat Daniel, who was to be the foundation of his extremely happy family life.

The Second World War began in the year of their marriage and, rejoining the Army as a chaplain, Woodhouse saw service in the Middle East and Italy, being mentioned three times in despatches. After living in Blackpool and Leominster, he came in 1957 to be Rector of Bristol City Parish Church (St Stephen's) for 10 years, which was his major job before London, and where he is still warmly remembered.

By a happy chance Robert Stopford's successor as Bishop was Gerald Ellison, who had been President of the Oxford Boat when Woodhouse was reserve oar (he would have got a Blue if someone had not come back for a fourth year) and they had five fruitful years of partnership in London, until Woodhouse retired two years before Ellison in 1978.

An archdeacon's job is essentially to do with bricks and mortar, but for all that – or perhaps because of it – it is a highly pastoral one and in most instances the clergy look first to their archdeacon for support. The clergy of the City, which

was Woodhouse's sole charge when he started, are well known for their individuality, but few if any of them were able to say "No" to him. With its 40 or so churches – mostly by Wren – every one of which was an architectural gem, his early training proved immensely valuable, and he was able to give full rein to his artistic side. He threw himself wholeheartedly behind Peter Palumbo's generous gift of the Henry Moore altar to St Stephen's, Walbrook, and though he hated divisions and controversy he could not but be pleased when the objectors were overruled.

Unhappily the reorganisa-

tion of the diocese in the mid-Seventies added three deaneries to the Archdeaconry (44 parishes in Westminster and Paddington) which increased the burden on him enormously, so that he renounced somewhat earlier than he might otherwise have done. But he continued active for a number of years as an energetic Chairman of the Retired Clergy Association, until increasing ill-health forced him into complete retirement.

One of Woodhouse's two sons has followed him into the Church, and both his other son and his daughter have followed artistic careers.

Derek Hayward

Samuel Mosyn Forbes Woodhouse, priest: born 28 April 1912; ordained deacon 1936, priest 1937; Chaplain to the Forces 1939-45 (three times mentioned in despatches); Vicar, Holy Trinity, South Shore, Blackpool 1945-49; Vicar of Leominster 1949-57; Rector, Bristol City Parish Church 1957-67; Archdeacon of London and Canon Residentiary of St Paul's 1967-78 (Emeritus); Archdeacon to Retired Clergy, Bath and Wells 1978-85; Chairman, Retired Clergy Association 1980-88, Vice-President 1990-93; married 1939 Patricia Daniel (two sons, one daughter); died Bristol 13 October 1995.



Woodhouse, Archdeacon of London from 1967 to 1978: the image of a country gentleman

## Gary Bond

Gary Bond was one of the most enduringly handsome actors of his generation. He was also a resourceful and sensitive performer of wide range and polished technique. But perhaps in the dramatic era of the kitchen sink and, in John Osborne's cutting phrase, the "white tile" university, such dazzling good looks were no longer quite at such a premium.

Bond also possessed a strong, warm and pleasing tenor voice; and he earned his greatest fame in musical theatre, notably in the works of Andrew Lloyd Webber. This phase of his career achieved its peak in the revival last year of *Aspects of Love* at the Piccadilly Theatre, and subsequently on tour. In this second production Bond finely recreated the role of the philandering hero, George Dillingham, causing mild shock to his admirers who, accustomed to Bond's perennial youthfulness, found it somewhat surprising to see him interpreting the role of a loveable roué in his sixties.

Bond was born in Hampshire in 1940, the son of a soldier, and educated at Church's College, Petersfield. His father, who wanted a steady career for him, died when Bond was 16, leaving him free to pursue his ambition to become an actor.

He trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama and at the age of 23 got his first job in that forcing-house of young talent, the Connaught Theatre, Worthing. The play was *Not in the Book* and was followed by *Doctor in the House*, in which Bond took the role of the light-hearted Dr Simon Sparrow. A year later he appeared at the Royal Court Theatre, London, as Pip in Arnold Wesker's *Chips with Everything*, one of the theatrical landmarks of the Sixties.

Bond was a natural charmer and the combination of his good looks and debonair manner made him ideal casting in light comedy and in romantic leading roles. This was included John Shand in J.M. Barrie's *What Every Woman Knows* (1967). Giles Cadwallader in

*The Man Most Likely To...* (1968) and a trio of sharply contrasting roles in Noël Coward's *We Were Dancing*, *Red Peppers* and *Family Album* at the Hampstead Theatre in 1970, and at the Fortune Theatre, London, in the following year.

Invited to join the Prospect Theatre Company in 1968, Bond had a welcome opportunity to try his hand at classical roles and he appeared as Sebastian in *Twelfth Night* and as a fiery Sergius in Shaw's *Arms and the Man*. In 1970, at the Open Air Theatre, Regents Park, he was a lively Benedict in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and a passionate and youthful Byron in *The Lord Byron Show*.

Bond's first success as a singer and dancer came in the musical revue *On the Level*, put on at the Saville Theatre, London, by the Beatles' manager, Brian Epstein. But it was not until 1972 that he enjoyed a huge and sudden hit in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. This highly original early musical by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber opened to great acclaim on the Edinburgh Fringe, was then brought to the Roundhouse in Camden Town and finally moved into the West End to enjoy a long run at the Albery Theatre. In the role of the young biblical hero abandoned by his brothers in the wilderness, Bond achieved a new popularity, establishing himself as a most versatile and personable musical performer.

His association with Rice and Lloyd Webber was to continue with the musical *Evita* when in 1978 he took over, from the pop star David Essex, the role of the revolutionary hero Che Guevara, who acts both as character and narrator. Bond's handling of this role was greatly admired by the show's American director, Hal Prince. After the exhausting rigours of a long-running West End musical, Bond gave a series of concert performances with Marti Webb of Lloyd Webber's songs.

But Bond had not abandoned his first love of straight theatre, and in *State of Affairs* (1983), a study of marital turmoil which transferred from the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, to the Duchess Theatre, he found an unexpected edge of anger and frustration. In 1982 he played Otto in Noël Coward's *Design for Living* opposite Maria Aitken at the Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue. At the Chichester Festival Theatre in 1988 he appeared opposite Keith Michell in *The Baccarat Scandal*, which transferred to the Theatre Royal, Haymarket. And in 1992 he appeared as the Count in a revival of Jean Anouilh's *The Rehearsal* at the Garrick Theatre.



Bond with Millicent Martin in Noël Coward's *Red Peppers*, at the Fortune Theatre, London, in 1971.

(1983), a study of marital turmoil which transferred from the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, to the Duchess Theatre, he found an unexpected edge of anger and frustration. In 1982 he played Otto in Noël Coward's *Design for Living* opposite Maria Aitken at the Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue. At the Chichester Festival Theatre in 1988 he appeared opposite Keith Michell in *The Baccarat Scandal*, which transferred to the Theatre Royal, Haymarket. And in 1992 he appeared as the Count in a revival of Jean Anouilh's *The Rehearsal* at the Garrick Theatre.

For one so obviously photographic it was curious that Bond did not have a more substantial career in film and television. In his first television role in 1963 he made a poignant young suitor to Natalia in Granada's production of *War and Peace* and in 1964 he won an important role in the film *Zulu* playing opposite Michael Caine and Stanley Baker. For BBC television he was Pip in *Great Expectations* and the young suitor in Anouilh's *Colombe*; and in 1968 for Thames Television he took the role of a young Indian army colonel in the military adventure series *Frontier*. But it was in the

theatre that he chose to make his real mark. Alan Bond had a twinkling humour and a sometimes wicked sense of fun. His easy warmth of manner made him a popular figure among his friends and fellow actors. For 16 years he shared his home with the distinguished American artist and illustrator E.J. Taylor, who sustained him through a long and painful illness.

Derek Granger

Gary James Bond, actor, singer: born Liss, Hampshire 7 February 1940; died Ealing, London 12 October 1995.

## Helen Vlachos

Elent Vlachou, or Helen Vlachos as she became known to a wide audience in Britain during the colonels' dictatorship of Greece from 1967 to 1974, was a publishing legend in Greece, a land of avid newspaper readers.

She was born in 1912, daughter of Georgios Vlachos, a prominent royalist and the founder (in 1919) of *Kathimerini*, Greece's nearest equivalent to a newspaper of record. Although she wrote for the newspaper before the Second World War (later *alia* she covered the 1936 Berlin Olympics), her journalistic reputation was made by her witty political diary column under the byline "H", which was launched when *Kathimerini* resumed publication in 1945, after the end of the German occupation.

On the death of her father in 1951 Vlachos assumed control of *Kathimerini*, launching its afternoon stablemate, *Mesimerini*, in 1961. She was also the driving force behind *Ekloges*, Greece's first mass-circulation illustrated magazine, and a pioneering cheap, but high quality, paperback imprint, Galaxias, many of whose volumes retain their value even 40 years later.

Under her ownership *Kathimerini* and *Mesimerini* offered steady, if not always uncritical, support for the Right in Greece. Vlachos's finest hour undoubtedly came with the establishment of the colonels' dictatorship in April 1967. She dealt the usurpers a crushing blow by immediately and without hesitation closing down her presses in protest against the coup and the ensuing censorship, thereby delivering a devastating blow to any hopes the junta may have entertained of co-opting elements of the constitutional Right in their support.

Although the presses were silent, Vlachos continued to hold court in the *Kathimerini* building in Socrates Street, in Athens, and to ridicule the pretensions of the military usurpers who proceeded to misgovern

Greece by means at once brutal and absurd.

Her description (wholly deserved) of Brigadier Stylianos Pattakos as "a clown" and other outspoken criticisms of the regime led to her being placed under house arrest in October that year.

From this she made a daring escape in December 1967, a few days after King Constantine's abortive counter-coup. She dyed her hair with shoe polish and travelled on a false passport; her arrival in London was the occasion for a further blast of anti-junta publicity throughout the world.

Unlike the leading politician of the Right, Konstantinos Karamanlis, who, while making his distaste for the junta clear, for the most part chose while in exile to keep his own counsel during the seven years of the dictatorship, Helen Vlachos immediately immersed herself in a non-stop publicity campaign against the colonels, a struggle in which she was joined by two other redoubtable women opponents of the regime, Melina Mercouri, the actress, and Amalia Fleming, the Greek widow of the discoverer of penicillin, Sir Alexander Fleming.

This formidable trioka proved more than a match for the buffoonish and self-important colonels. Vlachos's graphic account of life under the junta in the months before her escape, *House Arrest*, was published in 1970.



Vlachos: witty barbs

As editor in London of the *Hellenic Review*, a lively and well-informed émigré journal, she acquired a copy of a report sent by the colonels' PR man in Athens. The leaking of this document, which revealed, among other things, that a British Labour MP had been employed as a lobbyist, caused an immense furor. This not only ruined an important element in the colonels' expensive propaganda campaign but gave powerful impetus to the establishment of the Register of Members' Interests in the British Parliament.

Perhaps Vlachos's greatest service to the cause of democracy in Greece was as a broadcaster much in demand for her witty barbs, expressed in fluent and idiomatic English, against the junta. She was very well aware that for a British audience ridicule was a much more effective weapon than hyperbole.

On the downfall of the colonels' regime she returned to Athens and in 1974 restarted production of her newspapers. She was appointed a state deputy for the ruling New Democracy Party in the first democratically elected post-coup parliament. She also became president of the Association of Greek Newspaper Publishers.

In 1987 she sold *Kathimerini* to George Koskotas, the would-be newspaper and banking tycoon, whose business empire soon afterwards collapsed in a welter of scandal and corruption.

Vlachos's 60-year career as a journalist was wittily recounted in a multi-volume memoir, *Dimotographika Khronia: perisota kai kat'...* ("Journalistic Years: Fifty and more...") published in the early 1990s.

Richard Clogg

Elent Vlachou (Helen Vlachos), publisher: born 18 December 1911; publisher, *Kathimerini* 1951-67, 1974-87; married 1935 Ioannis Arvanitides (marriage dissolved), 1951 Constantinos Loudras; died Athens 14 October 1995.

## Susan Fleetwood

I met Susan Fleetwood during the filming of Andrew Tarkovsky's *The Sacrifice*, writes Layla Alexander Garrett further to the obituary by Adam Benedict and Peter Eyre, 2 October. In October 1984 I came with Tarkovsky to London to cast a British actor or actress in the film, as our co-producers (Channel 4) had required. The part of Adelaide, the hysterical wife of the protagonist, was still

uncast. Susan was suggested. But who was this unknown, but at the same time famous British theatre actress?

Shortly after our trip to London we were sent a video of *The Good Soldier*, which starred Susan Fleetwood. Tarkovsky instantly fell in love with one scene, where Susan enters the hall. He kept rewinding it, repeating: "She's magnificent! Just look! The way she moves!

She doesn't walk, she floats... Look at her shoulders, look at her chest... A queen! Nobody can walk like her!" I used to joke with her: "You're worse than Marilyn Monroe, Susan. Seducing a poet of the cinema with your wiggle! And you call yourself a professional!"

Adelaide was an extremely difficult part to play. She was a self-obsessed, self-styled goddess who had no consideration

for others. At the same time she was irresistible. On the shoot Susan had the toughest time. She had to memorise not only her lines (and she was dyslexic) but also the Swedish ones of her partners. And those lines were constantly changed. Her concentration must have been tremendous, but she did it with no apparent effort. She was a totally professional: she was always on time, she never

complained, never whinged at the weather or Tarkovsky's time-wasting, such as when he was experimenting with a pool of water, completely forgetting his actors. Her reaction would be: "So what? We're not filming a soap opera. We're working with a difficult director who happens to be a genius."

Andrei called Susan "our intellectual". He was fascinated and at the same time unsettled

by her directness and insatiable curiosity. "Susan is going to corner me again," he'd say, tugging on his moustache. Once he told her: "You must stop interpreting the role. Stop asking questions of how and what... Do you think I know Adelaide better than you? I only wrote her, besides, I'm a man. You're an actress and you're a woman. You know her better than me. But I wouldn't have given you

the part if I didn't have faith in you. I'm not a madman."

During post-production, while watching the harrowing scene of Adelaide's hysteria (which must have reminded him of something deeply personal and disturbing), Andrei exclaimed: "That's uncanny! How did she know?" He added enigmatically: "Susan is full of surprises. She is an actress... no, a woman who knows."

Guido Guidi, journalist, died Rome 14 October, aged 73. Reporter for *La Stampa* 1964-79. President in the 1980s and 1990s of the Italian press associations, the National Council of the Order of Journalists and the National Federation of the Italian Press. Canon John McWilliam, died Hunsly, Grampian, 10 October, aged 90. Believed to be Britain's oldest practising priest at the time of his death, he was parish priest at St Margaret's Chapel in Hunsly.

## Births, Marriages &amp; Deaths

## BIRTHS

CRITCHLOW: On 6 October 1995, at Hammersmith Hospital, London, to Sarah (née Blackburn) and John, a daughter, Megan Rachel, a sister for Daniel.

DEESON: On 1 October, to Emma and James, a son, Sebastian Edward Hugh, a brother for Tom.

Announcements for GAZETTE BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding announcements, In Memoriams) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER: Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen receives the President of the Republic of Poland and Malawi Alimani on a State Visit. The Duke of Edinburgh, President, opens the new premises of the City and Guilds of London Institute, London EC1. The Prince of Wales attends a State Banquet for the President of the Republic of Poland and Malawi Alimani at Buckingham Palace. Prince Edward and Princess Margaret also attend. The Princess Royal, Prince Charles and Prince William attend the Grandmaster Ceremony of St Martin's in the City. Lord WOLFE, followed by a Reception at the British School of Osteopathy, London SW1.

Changing of the Guard. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment (known as the Queen's Life Guard) at Horse Guards. 11am: In Britain (Crested Guards) means the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 9pm.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. M. Nethalanga and Miss L. K. Sellwood. The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Lucan Nethalanga, of the Close, Ender, and Lucy, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Robin Sellwood, of Thuro, Cornwall.

## Birthdays

Mr Stephen Bishop-Kovachich, concert pianist, 55; Mr George Mackay Brown, author, 74; Mr Harry Carpenter, journalist and television boxing commentator, 70; Mr Sydney Chapman MP, 66; Mr Alexander Cooke, honorary consulting physician, United Oxford Hospitals, 96; The Earl of Dalhousie, former Governor-General, Rhodesian Federation, 81; Sir Denis Dobson QC, former Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor, 87; Mr Alan Garner, author, 64; Sir Ralph Gibson, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 73; The Right Rev Ronald Goodrich, Assistant Bishop, Exeter, 85; Sir Christopher Harding, chairman, BET, 56; Mr John Haynes, footballer, 61; Mrs Ann Jones, tennis player, 57; Lord Kilbracken, author and journalist, 75; Mr Michael Lord MP, 57; Mr Cameron Mackintosh, theatrical producer, 49; Mr Arthur Miller, playwright, 80; Mr Bernard Taylor, former chief executive, Glaxo, 60; Sir Simon Tuckey, High Court judge, 54.

## Anniversaries

Births: Nathan Field, actor and playwright, baptised 1587; John Wilkes, political reformer and journalist, 1727; Claude-Henri, Comte de Saint-Simon, economist and social re-

former, 1760; Elinor Glyn, novelist, 1864; Baroness Karen Blixen (Isak Dinesen), author, 1885; Nathaniel West (Nathan Walenstein Weinstein), novelist, 1902; Rita Hayworth (Margherita Carmen Casiano), actress, 1918; Montgomery Clift, actor, 1920; Death: Sir Philip Sidney, poet, soldier and courtier, 1586; René-Antoine Ferchault de Réaumur, scientist, 1757; John Brown, physician and medical reformer, 1788; Frédéric-François Chopin (Fryderyk Franciszek), composer, 1849. On this day: under the Treaty of Dunkirk, Charles II sold Dunkirk to the French, 1662; Napoleon was exiled and arrived on the island of St Helena, 1815; the republics of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia were formally established, 1918; in the United States, the gangster Al Capone was sentenced to 11 years in jail for income-tax evasion, 1931; the first nuclear power station in the world was opened at Calder Hall, 1956. Today is the Feast Day of St Amtrudis or Austrude, Saints Ethelbert and Ethelred, St Ignatius of Antioch, St John the Dwarf, St Norhelm, St Rule, St Sempino and The Ursuline Martyrs of Valenciennes.

## Lectures

National Gallery: Lynda Stephens, "Myths and Fables (Jy) Pollack, Apollo and Daphne". 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Caroline Rineil, "English Furniture 1780-1830". 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Justin Hopkins, "Phenomena of Life and Nature: David Wilkie and 19th-century genre painting". 1pm. British Museum: Delia Pemberton, "Animals in Ancient Egyptian Art". 1.15pm. University College London, London WC1: Professor Guenter Riese,

"Death in Hamburg Revisited: hospitals, physicians and the cholera 1892". 5.30pm.

Highway Literary and Scientific Institution, London NW: Sally Festing, "Barbara Hepworth: a life of forms". 7.45pm. Royal Institute of British Architects, London W1: Dr Neil Jackson, "The Modern Steel House: provenance and probability". 6.15pm. Waterstones, 121-125 Charing Cross Road, London WC2: Terry Castle and Dr David Noakes, "Jane Austen: sense, sensibility and the vexed question of sexuality". 7.30pm.

## Canning House

The Duke of Kent was the guest of honour at a reception held yesterday at Painters' Hall, London EC4, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Hispanic and Lusio Brazilian Council. The Earl of Limerick, President of Canning House, was the host. The reception was sponsored by Allied Domecq, BP, ICI, Lloyd's Bank plc, Shell, Unilever and Zeneca plc. It followed Canning House's Autumn Conference on "Free Trade Area of the Americas: the way ahead after Miami". Among those present were: Ambassadors and representatives of Latin America, Canada, Malaysia, Portugal, Spain and the United States; Viscount Montgomery of Alencaster Lord Canning; Lord Howe of Abercromby QC; Mr Peter Brooke MP; Mr Brian Gurd Jones MP; Sir Michael Palmer; Sir Michael Perry; Mr John Jennings.

## Royal Over-Seas League

Mr Godfrey Talbot was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Royal Over-Seas League's Discussion Circle held yesterday evening at Over-Seas House, St James's, London SW1. His subject was "What follows VE and VJ?" Mrs Elizabeth Cross-

## Fresh asylum claim for adjudicator to decide

## LAW REPORT

17 October 1995

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex parte Singh; Queen's Bench Division (No Justice Carnwath) (18 July 1995)

The question whether a person seeking political asylum, following rejection of his claim, had made a fresh claim on a fundamentally different basis, or simply amplified the grounds for his original claim, was to be decided by the adjudicator hearing his appeal against removal, not the Home Secretary.

Mr Justice Carnwath nevertheless refused an application by Manvir Singh for judicial review of the Home Secretary's decision, communicated on 6 March 1995, that Mr Singh had not made a fresh claim for political asylum following rejection of his original claim and had no further right of appeal, since the adjudicator, had he considered the matter, would have reached the same conclusion.

The applicant, an Indian national, first applied for political asylum in November 1993 on the ground that his cousin, Balvir Singh, had been killed by Sikh terrorists after refusing to join their cause, and, as he looked exactly like his cousin, the terrorists thought the cousin was still alive. They

had also threatened his maternal aunt and in 1991 had killed his grandfather.

The Home Secretary refused his asylum claim on 19 January 1994. His appeal was dismissed by the special adjudicator on 12 March 1994. An application for leave to appeal to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal was refused by the chairman on 6 April 1994. Removal directions were given, and arrangements had been made for him to leave the country on 15 December 1994 when, on 13 December, his solicitor wrote to the Immigration Office:

It would seem that our client's fear of the militants is borne out by our client's father being killed, would you therefore please reconsider this matter.

They submitted various documents but the Immigration Office pointed out that these documents related to the death of the applicant's grandfather, not father. That had already been taken into account. On 22 December the solicitors wrote correcting the earlier information and producing evidence that the applicant's father had been injured in a militant attack on 17 November 1994.

On 21 February, Mr Watt of the Asylum and Special Cases Division wrote a detailed response, concluding that the Home Secretary was satisfied the authorities in India were able to protect the applicant and his family.

On 3 March a faxed message was sent to the solicitors giving "removal directions" for 8 March 1995. On the same day the solicitors wrote to Mr Watt saying they would appeal to the special adjudicator on the basis that their recent letters constituted a fresh application for asylum. On behalf of the Secretary of State, Mr Watt rejected that argument, saying the later documentation produced merely amplified, and did not alter, the fundamental basis of the applicant's claim, namely that his life remained in danger from the same sources. James Gillespie (Moody & Woolley, Birmingham) for the applicant; Seven Kovats (Treasury Solicitor) for the Home Department.

Mr Justice Carnwath said the right of appeal asserted in this case was under section 8(4) of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993, which applied "Where directions are given... for a person's removal from the United Kingdom..."

Removal directions were given by the Immigration officer, not the Secretary of State. Under the Asylum Appeals (Procedure) Rules 1993, notice of appeal was given by service on the immigration officer, not the Secretary of State. The immigration officer then passed the notice on to the adjudicator. Only when the appeal was so constituted did the Secretary of State become a party.

The issue whether there had been a "fresh claim" arose, if at all, under para 2 of Schedule II to the 1993 Act, under which a person could not appeal under section 8(4) unless he had made a claim for asylum. It was expressed as a procedural bar. As such it was a matter normally to be decided, in the first instance, by the court or tribunal to which the appeal had been made, namely the adjudicator, not the Secretary of State.

Neither the Act nor the Rules provided any immediate role for the Secretary of State when a notice of appeal was lodged. He was therefore wrong to regard his decision on whether there was a new claim as necessarily final.

Paul Magrath, Barrister





# news analysis



**SUBURBANISATION**  
Townies squeeze locals out: 230,000 people own second homes in England, commuters live in rural areas but work in towns and cities and many city-dwellers retire to the country. Rented accommodation is scarce and house prices soar beyond the reach of locals: 10 to 50 per cent above the national average. Rural residents often have to commute to find work and housing.

**DECLINE OF AGRICULTURE**  
The farm labour force has fallen sharply: in 1950 there were 750,000 agricultural workers, 200,000 now. The self-sufficiency policy has led to less intensive farming methods. The rural economy is now supported by manufacturing and tourism.

**DECLINE OF RURAL SERVICES**  
Wealthy commuters and second-home owners are undermining traditional rural services. Derogation of bus services in the mid-1980s led to a reduction in evening and Sunday services. Many rural train services were discontinued in the late 1980s. Village post offices, shops and pubs are on the verge, with 30 per cent of village shops closing, considering selling up in the next two years.

**DISAPPEARANCE OF COUNTRYSIDE**  
An area the size of Greater London, Berkshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire has been built on since 1945. By 2001 11 per cent of England may be urbanised. Hedgerows are destroyed by overzealous pruning or neglect and only 13 per cent of dry-stone walls are in good condition. 50 per cent of British wetlands, home to rare species such as the bittern, have been lost to modern farming since the Second World War.

**GROWTH OF RURAL POVERTY**  
High levels of rural unemployment and rising house prices have contributed to poverty. 18 per cent of men (compared to 8 per cent nationally) and 54 per cent of women (compared to 47 per cent nationally) earn low wages. In 50 per cent of rural households the main breadwinner earns less than £2,000 a year. Access to jobs is difficult because of poor transport.

I lie back and think of England, and you will probably think of its countryside. Gently rolling hills, a patchwork of fields, hedgerows and copses, church spires poking from clumped villages.

This warm and dreamy national emblem still survives largely intact across much of the country – but it is looking increasingly faded and ragged. The fields are bigger because many of the hedgerows have either been grubbed out or ruined through neglect. The woods are full of ageing, rotten trees because no one manages them for timber and other traditional forest products.

The village? There is a hotchpotch of modern, suburban-looking houses on its edges and for most hours of the day the place seems strangely dead. The church now holds services only every third Sunday and the bells seldom peal.

Today, after a full year of consultation, committee meetings and redraftings, the Government publishes its long-awaited White Paper on the future of rural England. In the face of the most rapid changes

in the history of the countryside, the White Paper cannot be regarded as premature.

Agriculture employs ever fewer people and yet the land is still shaped almost exclusively by farming. The number of farmers and farmworkers has fallen by 60 per cent since 1950. As a consequence the great majority of people now working in the countryside have no direct connection with the land. On average only 6 per cent of rural workers are employed in agriculture. The country workforce has become much more like that of the towns, with service sector and tourism jobs growing particularly fast.

Even more significantly, more and more people who live in the countryside don't work there. They have retired to the country or they commute increasingly long distances into towns and cities. In so doing they have pushed up house prices because planning controls ensure the supply of property is well short of demand.

While there has been a strong net outflow from city to country across most of Eng-

## The great majority of people now working in the countryside have no direct connection with the land

land in the past few decades, there is a sad flow in the other direction. Young people who grow up in villages have little prospect of finding homes they can afford, so they leave for town – to find cheaper homes to rent or buy, or to go on the council's waiting list – and possibly into temporary bed and breakfast accommodation.

Another great change is the decline of rural services – buses, village schools and shops. In some of the remotest parts this process is fuelled by depopulation, but elsewhere an increasingly mobile, car-borne rural

population is choosing to drive into town in search of cheaper, more varied shops and leisure pursuits.

The upshot of these changes is an increasingly polarised countryside. At one extreme there are wealthy newcomers who have no connection with the area apart from living there, and who are determined to fight off any development which would alter the landscape they have bought into at a high price.

At the other, there are the resentful rural poor. Their children have next to no hope of finding an affordable local home. And they hate the way in which any new development that might keep jobs and economic life in their villages is resisted by the arrivistes.

The other great rural battleground is between man and nature. Modern agriculture and urban development are destroying much of the wildlife and the landscapes which make us cherish the countryside in the first place. Each year between 50 and 100 square kilometres of rural England – an area equivalent to a large

town of at least 100,000 people – disappears under new buildings – mostly homes, but also factories, out-of-town shopping centres and roads.

The intensification of agriculture since the Second World War has done more damage still. Traditional farming practices allowed plenty of scope for rich and colourful flora and fauna to exist alongside man. Since the 1940s most of these semi-natural areas such as wetlands, coppice woodlands, unfertilised downland pastures and hay meadows have been ruined. They have either been damaged irreparably by neglect or vanished under the plough.

But this is the one destructive rural trend whose end may be in sight. The Government is coming round to the view that if farmers are to be heavily subsidised, it should not be to grow surplus food but to manage the countryside in a way that people want.

This change is in its infancy. The amount of subsidy that farmers receive for delivering environmental goods (such as maintaining dry stone walls or conserving salt marshes) is still

## If we all fulfilled our wish to live in the countryside – in retirement or as commuters – we would ruin the place

minuscule compared to the production subsidies which encourage intensive agriculture.

The single largest manifestation of this change is the Common Agricultural Policy's set-aside regime, in which 10 per cent or more of cropland is left fallow. Set-aside does appear to be a boon to wildlife. The downside is that it has contributed to the massive decline in agricultural employment.

The battle to save the countryside's cherished landscapes and wildlife has begun. Rebuilding the social fabric of the countryside may prove

more difficult. Trends such as polarisation and suburbanisation of rural areas are part of other formidable changes of our age – rapid technological progress, jobless economic growth, escalating use of transport and telecommunications.

The challenge is to create a more vibrant rural economy in which people can live and work in the same village. This used to happen naturally when most people worked on the land, but thanks to technology that time has gone forever. Even a massive increase in organic farming would create only a few tens of thousands of jobs.

What government, local and national, has to encourage is the creation of local jobs for people who have grown up locally and want to stay in the area, along with the provision of affordable – and therefore subsidised – homes. This goes against the grain in a society which is increasingly mobile and for a government which likes to deregulate.

Yet it is starting to happen already, albeit on an inadequate scale. The Rural Housing Trust and housing associations

are now allowed to build low-cost homes for rent just outside villages, on land which private housebuilders would not be allowed to develop because of planning restrictions.

Because of this the land involved is relatively cheap, which helps to keep the cost of these village housing projects down – and the rents as well. They are allocated to local people on low incomes who would otherwise have to leave the area to get subsidised housing.

The rest of us, who live in the cities, have to be encouraged to stay there. If we all fulfilled our wish to live in the countryside – in retirement or as commuters – we would ruin the place by gobbling up open countryside under houses and causing heavy traffic pollution and congestion. There has to be continued restraint on commercial – as opposed to subsidised – house-building in the country.

Part of the salvation of England's countryside lies in improving its cities and making them places we want to live in all our lives. The countryside should be somewhere to visit – preferably by train or bus.

## Diary

DAVID LISTER

The hype for the "new" Beatles double CD – with a further two double CDs to follow – is proceeding in grand style. Articles, analyses, exclusive interviews with the surviving Beatles (though not, sadly, with Jane Asher about the day she accidentally threw away the lyrics to dozens of never-to-be-heard Lennon and McCartney songs in an over-enthusiastic burst of spring cleaning in 1965). The rock magazine *Mojo* even has three different covers of the group, in the hope that in 20 years' time there will still be collectors of Beatle revivalist memorabilia. It all whets the appetite for next month's highly lucrative release of all those hitherto unissued tracks and out-takes from the Sixties.

I don't want to spoil the party, but throughout the hype an interview from long ago with the late John Lennon has been buzzing round my mind. It took place in 1971 with *Rolling Stone* magazine. In it, John was asked about those unissued tracks and out-takes. They were, he replied, never put on record because they were not up to standard. "Everything that was good enough, we used," was the all-too-honest response, a quote which curiously has not featured in any of the advance publicity. What price the hype now? Or the three double CDs?



All you need is out-takes

It's always refreshing, in a politically incorrect way, to hear a new and logically plausible argument in defence of alcohol consumption. Lunching with Allied Domecq, the international whisky and gin retailing company, I was much taken with an international comparison made by its head of corporate affairs, Tony Pratt. In France, he said, children are positively encouraged to have a glass of alcohol at home with the family as mealtime. This removes any idea of drink being a veritable symbol for youngsters. And it was significant, he added, that public order offences

were far less common in France than in Britain.

What government could resist such a line of reasoning? Lower the taxes on wine and spirits and cut vandalism and juvenile crime at a stroke? And, by making dinner at home such an appealing prospect, they will also be helping to keep the family together. A vote-winning package if ever I heard one.

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber tells me he has thoughts of building a new theatre with art gallery attached on London's South Bank, a few steps from the National. Under the cultural rationale of if you've got it, flaunt it, the art gallery would show Sir Andrew's own collection, and the theatre his musicals.

But he won't proceed until he is sure that the Millennium Commission will authorise a better link to bring people from north of the Thames. So far a new bridge and a cable car from Covent Garden have been proposed. Is any capital city in the world, I wonder, so conscious of the divide between the two banks of its river? I, like most self-respecting north Londoners, would rather emigrate than live in the deep south. I imagine most south Londoners feel the same

about setting up home in the north.

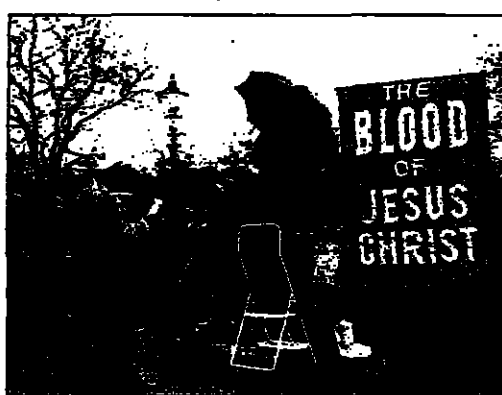
No research has been carried out on the reasons for this. But empirical evidence suggests that the north Londoners feel that south London consists of one huge, sprawling council estate where the police travel in three, while south Londoners see the north as a chattering class in continuous session.

And so, though the South Bank already has the National Theatre, National Film Theatre, Royal Festival Hall and Museum of the Moving Image, this is seen not as a thriving arts metropolis which should by now have become the focal point of London, but as a problem – because people from the other side of the river can't stomach the thought of going there unless assured of on-site parking so that they can make their getaway as the curtain falls.

The divide, both social and cultural, does not seem to exist in Paris, where the French fearlessly visit galleries and theatres – and, doubtless, encourage their children to imbibe in restaurants – on both left and right banks of the Seine.

It looks as though the Prime Minister may have taken his revenge on an increasingly belligerent press corps. Journalists arriving for the lobby briefing at No 10 Downing Street yesterday were surprised to find that for the first time they were not allowed to use the front door. From now on they have to go round the side to a new briefing room, and "for security reasons" the door is locked while they are inside. Send them round the tradesmen's entrance and if there's some bad news don't let them out of the building. It must be every prime minister's dream.

At the weekend I paid my first visit for many years to Speakers' Corner in London's Hyde Park. I was surprised to find that the said speakers have been separated from their corner, and



Free as ever: tub-thumpers' corner

are being obliged to set up their soapboxes on a pathway nearby.

However, little has changed in the subject matter on which British extroverts want to harangue their fellow citizens. Out of the six speakers, four were tub-thumping about religion (addressing one's listeners provocatively as "hypocrites" remains *de rigueur*), one was sounding off about the French and nuclear outrages; and one had an appealingly surreal approach. He spoke for nearly half an hour without actually saying anything. His thesis was that those with the least to say attract the biggest crowds, and this was borne out by the increasingly large numbers that surrounded him.

After he had played out his linguistic games, he said proudly that this is the only country in the world where one can stand on two milk crates and speak to 300 people for half an hour about nothing at all. I felt perversely proud to be British.

Readers of a nervous or sensitive disposition should read no further; but others might enjoy this sighting of a poster for a David Bowie concert on his recent American tour. Bowie was backed by two new bands, Prick and Nine Inch Nails. The magazine *Music Week* spotted one venue which had the billing confused and proudly announced: "David Bowie with Nine Inch Prick". Well, I've always said he's the biggest star. Now it's official.

## Europe united on single currency

Until then, there's Glenfiddich to enjoy.





# INDEPENDENT

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## Howard escapes justice again

Michael Howard must not be allowed to wash his hands of responsibility for the serious security flaws in Britain's prisons. Sir John Larmont's report, published yesterday, describes a long-running catalogue of failure. He speaks of sloppiness in basic precautions, of widespread drug usage among inmates at Parkhurst and of a prison service "in which morale is low with ordinary prison officers feeling devastated and unfairly treated". A home secretary who has made so much political capital out of toughening prison regimes and proclaiming such a clear personal commitment to a particular approach to prison management cannot simply absolve himself when so many things go wrong.

Sir John's report, which focuses primarily on the escape of three dangerous prisoners last January from Parkhurst, describes a shambolic security system, many weaknesses of which had been previously identified by the governor and by Judge Stephen Lumley, Chief Inspector of Prisons. The man who has paid the price is Derek Lewis, director of the Prison Service. No one who reads this report will doubt that his resignation is appropriate, despite his considerable achievements over the past three years in making jails more humane and more effective.

But what of Mr Howard? Yesterday, he was condemned by Mr Lewis, who accused him of paying insufficient attention to prisons. This public rebuke must in part reflect Mr Lewis's bitterness at being forced out. But it is a serious allegation, none the less, from a senior figure who knows the inside of Britain's jails. It also chimes with Sir John's report, which suggests that too little time is

being spent on the active management of prisons and too much on processing paper generated by the prison bureaucracy and the Home Office.

Mr Howard takes comfort in not having been explicitly blamed by Sir John. But the Larmont report calls for an examination of the relationship between agencies such as the Prison Service and the Home Office. This raises serious questions over the roles that the Home Secretary and his officials have played in a management structure that has proved ineffective in keeping high-risk prisoners behind bars.

The Teflon-coated Mr Howard will no doubt survive this latest barrage of criticism, just as he did last week's attack by the Lord Chief Justice over plans to curb remission for long-term prisoners.

The problem with Mr Howard's approach is that it is one-dimensional. He accepts most of the report's recommendations which directly bear upon issues of security, although he has been unable to persuade the Treasury to cough up for a new prison for high-risk prisoners. But he rejects any proposals that might blur his image as the hard man of the penal world, such as the provision of more television and more home leave.

This is simplistic. The provision of decent facilities in jails is not only civilised, it is part of the mechanism for controlling bored and violent people. Sir John Larmont, like the Lord Chief Justice, knows that disturbances break out when prisoners feel abused, too confined and lose hope. That produced the Strangeways riot in 1990 and the subsequent improvement of prison regimes. The irresponsible Mr Howard is turning back the clock and laying up serious trouble for his successor.

## One tyrant, one vote

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has never been a man noted for a highly developed sense of humour, but even he might be able to appreciate the ironies of the preposterous "referendum" which has just consecrated his rule by a "yes" vote of 99.96 per cent.

Here was a contest with one candidate in which many hapless voters were invited to mark their papers without the least privacy. Its outcome was celebrated with the intimidatory tattoo of Kalashnikov fire familiar at occasions of spontaneous public rejoicing in Baghdad. The result was hailed by Saddam's toadying deputy, Izzat Ibrahim, as "an immortal day in the history of Arabism and Islam".

As so often with Saddam, the outside world is left to shake its head and attempt to decipher his intentions. Could this have been an effort to persuade the more credulous or cowardly members of the United Nations Security Council that his is a legitimate government upon whose shoulders the burden of UN sanctions unjustly rests? It cannot have purchased an iota of credibility for that assumption.

It seems more likely that this was the Iraqi leader's method of sending a signal to the Security Council. Sanctions have failed, he is saying. I can still muster more than a million people to cast votes, my control is absolute and my resolve firm. Therefore lift sanctions, for they are hurting the Iraqi people but cannot harm me.

There is a respectable liberal argument precisely to that effect. The sufferings of the Iraqi populace deserve every ounce of compassion. The UN itself has docu-

mented middle-class penury, malnutrition among the poor, lack of medicines for the sick. Iraq, once a standard-bearer of social development, is disintegrating into a pre-industrial country. But this tragedy stems from nothing more than the calculated actions of Saddam Hussein himself.

The Iraqi regime refuses to take up an option for UN-controlled oil sales that would yield \$1bn in humanitarian funds. It spouts the propaganda of the oppressed yet it squanders scarce cash on its army and the sinister security services that preserve Saddam in power. Even more ominous, the Iraq that pleads poverty has engaged once again in a clandestine buying spree of missile components and hi-tech weapons parts. These are the actions of a government bent on violent retribution, not those of a humanitarian supplicant.

Perhaps the greatest service of Saddam's "referendum" is the helpful light it casts on the nature of his regime. When arguments are made on behalf of the Iraqi people, let it be recalled that this is a ruling clique that rules by violating the country's legal constitution. No elected parliament has existed in Iraq since 1958, and by 1968 the Baath party had abrogated all power to itself. There have been interludes of fake liberalisation in Baghdad before - 1988 to 1990 was one such period. It is all part of an intermittent effort to convert the Baathist heritage of "revolutionary legitimacy" into a governmental system able to claim allegiance from all Iraqis. And perhaps the greatest irony is that the Baath party's own title means "renaissance".

ANOTHER VIEW Derek Lewis

## Unfinished prison reform

If the Prison Service is ever to realise its full potential, what it needs, as General Sir John Larmont has said, is "minimum political involvement in the day-to-day operation of the service". As Stephen Lumley, the Chief Inspector, put it: "I hope that the Prison Service can be left alone to get on with its job without too much digging and poking".

The Prison Service has had a troubled history. In the Eighties it was industrial relations and overcrowding. In 1990 it was the most serious riots in its history at Strangeways and other prisons. Most recently it has been the very serious escapes from Whiteoak and Parkhurst.

There has been no shortage of inquiries - May, Woolf, Lygo, Woodcock and now Larmont. As a result, the service was given agency status on 1 April 1993 and I was appointed director general. It was made clear to me that the changes required in the service were of such a fundamental nature that they would take many years to complete. What was needed was a twin-track programme: first, to achieve early and significant improvements in performance across the range - security, control, regimes and efficiency; but at the same time the foundations had to be laid for long-term changes in structure and culture and to eliminate financial waste.

Our progress has been a credit to all those who work in the service. Escapes have been cut by more than 75 per cent. The public is also better protected through an 80 per cent reduction in the number of home-leave failures. There has

been only one serious prison disturbance in the past three years and none in the past two. Prisoners are spending more time in better-quality work, training and education. We are doing more to protect the public by forcing prisoners to confront their criminal behaviour and change it. We have virtually eliminated the unacceptable practice of stopping out, stopped prisoners being held three to a cell and ceased the unacceptable use of police cells. At the same time we have accommodated a rise in the prison population from 40,000 to 52,000 and reduced the real cost to the taxpayer.

Those achievements have been severely marred by the escapes from Whiteoak and Parkhurst, which have undermined the fact that there is still much to do. Indeed, as I have said on many occasions, the task is not yet half done, but the service now has a momentum for change. If followed through with proper support I know the people I have worked with can deliver.

The Prison Service Board has clearly indicated its belief in a need for continuity. Sadly, that is not to be the case and I leave the service with great regret at a job well started but not completed. I hope we shall see over the coming years my vision come to pass of a service that is secure, safe, effective at rehabilitating offenders and efficient. And I hope that those who have this task will be allowed the freedom to see it through.

The writer was director general of the Prison Service from 1993 until yesterday.



Signing the contract for the big fight

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Lottery funds for Neptune Hall

From Lord Rothschild

Sir: Although it is not our practice to comment publicly on applications under consideration, Colin Brown's article ("Philip wades into battle for lottery cash", 16 October) about the National Maritime Museum's application should not go unanswered. The NMM did, indeed, apply to us for a grant in January. The project is an important and complex one, involving the expenditure of some £14m. The Trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund have, at all times, made it clear to the NMM that although they support the Neptune Hall scheme in principle, some aspects of the application concern them.

The distributors of the National Lottery have been asked to ensure that applications for lottery funds are of a high quality, and we take this consideration very seriously. Our concerns have been based on the detailed expert advice we have sought on the project, including the views of the Royal Fine Arts Commission and a number of independent experts of undoubted standing. Concerns were also raised following a visit to the NMM by members of

our expert panel and by trustees.

We have been most careful to keep the NMM informed at every stage of the progress of the application. In conjunction with the NMM and English Heritage, we are now working towards a solution which we hope we will be in a position to announce in the near future. This solution, we believe, will address the concerns raised by our expert advisers; will ensure that this major project is at a suitable stage for any millennium celebrations; and that this remarkable museum can be appreciated by visitors well into the 21st century. We hope that the revised scheme will command unequivocal support and enthusiasm from all quarters. An ambitious development of the Neptune Hall deserves nothing less.

Lastly, I would like to point out for accuracy that the grant to the Royal Opera House was made by the Arts Council and not by the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Yours faithfully, LORD ROTHSCHILD, Chairman, National Heritage Memorial Fund, London, SW1 16 October

### Boxing: the camaraderie and the tragedy

From Mr Anthony Potts

Sir: I was pleased to note in your editorial "Boxing: the final blow?" (16 October) that you accept that the risks of death in boxing are extremely low, and further, that whatever the risks, boxers choose to enter the ring, and accept that whatever may happen inside is a consequence of that freely made decision.

I was, however, surprised to see it stated as fact that the object of boxing is "to punch a man so hard that he can't stand up again".

Whenever I entered the ring as a boxer, my sole aim was to score more points than my opponent. Of course, this involved a risk to both of us, but I no more intended to cause physical injury to my opponent than a rugby player does when tackling the opposition hard.

The point must be made that, in both situations, something is happening in which a person's actions risk the life of another person. If we can accept injuries caused by rugby as acceptable, then we should accept that two athletes be allowed to compete in their chosen sport of boxing. If intentions are being questioned, one should compare the spirit of camaraderie between boxers with the air of dis-

like so obvious between some of our other sportsmen.

Yes, it is a tragedy that James Murray was killed by boxing, and the sport would be changed for the better if this risk wasn't there, but the risk is there, and boxers do understand this.

I was happy that I had the opportunity to compete; it is my belief that it is not my place or that of boxing's detractors to take away the right of others to do the same.

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY POTTS, London, E14 16 October

From Dr M. Jamil

Sir: If the death of the young boxer James Murray on Sunday morning helps to bring this nation to its senses, and makes us realise that boxing is merely a legalised form of manslaughter and not a sport, then maybe his death was not in vain.

It is about time the UK followed the example set by the Scandinavian countries and banned this shameful "sport". Claims that clandestine fights would become a major problem are nonsense. Cockfighting was

one of the most popular forms of entertainment in this country in years gone by before it was banned. Now that it has been banned, do we have a major problem with illicit underground cock-fights organised in this country?

It might be possible to achieve the ban on boxing more speedily if Drew Docherty, the boxer who inflicted the fatal injuries on James Murray, were to be arrested and charged with manslaughter, unlawful killing or even murder. All the promoters of this event who made a profit out of this man's death should be charged with being accessories - including the television companies who broadcast these degenerate spectacles into this nation's living rooms.

Everyone involved, the ghoul who watch this savagery, and even the owners of the Hospitality Inn in Glasgow, who rented out their hall for this event, have this young man's blood on their hands.

Yours sincerely, M. JAMIL, Department of Surgery, Luton & Dunstable Hospital, Luton, Bedfordshire 16 October

### A wealthy but backward society

From Mrs Ophelia Gorospe Dyer

Sir: As a Filipina married to an Englishman and living in this country, I am incensed at the treatment my countrywomen (and other foreign nationals) are receiving at the hands of Arab employers in the Gulf ("Gulf maid" in slavery to a reign of terror", 12 October). I applaud Robert Fisk and the other journalists who are increasingly drawing the attention of the outside world to this problem.

Because of economic conditions in their home country, many Filipinos have no choice but to work abroad so that they can send money home to support their families. The vast majority of them are honest, hard-working and well-educated (although not a wealthy country the education system in the Philippines is good, which is one of the reasons Filipinos are employed to educate Arab chil-

dren in the Gulf). Yet, despite the fact that they are often better educated than those they work for, they are prepared to swallow their pride and work for people, many of whom subject them to physical and sexual abuse and a starvation diet, and sometimes fail to pay them the wages agreed.

I feel sorry for Arab women who are second-class citizens in their own country, and have suffered a long history of male oppression. Although they live a cosseted and jewelled existence, many of them have no true freedom or right of self-expression. They live in a culturally backward society with primitive customs that more civilised countries find it hard to understand. Oil has been the Gulf's good fortune, but when will the moral values of a large number of its inhabitants catch up with their material blessings? Yours faithfully, OPHELIA GOROSPE DYER, Exeter, Devon

### No place of refuge

From Ms Helen Bamber

Sir: We are glad to hear that the Government wants to help genuine refugees (report, 12 October). However, the announcement by Peter Lilley about the withdrawal of social security benefits for asylum seekers gives every appearance to the contrary.

Many of those seen by the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture have been refused refugee status by the Home Office but have subsequently been recognised as refugees on appeal to the courts. This process can take over a year. Under the new rules, such survivors would be left destitute while their cases are dealt with.

How safe will the supposed "safe haven" of Britain be when survivors of torture are without food and a roof over their heads? Yours faithfully, HELEN BAMBER, Director, Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, London, NW5

### Open planning

From Mr Jed Griffiths

Sir: In the course of his musings on the review of local government ("Who said size was not important?" 4 October), Professor Michael Chisholm is quoted as saying: "There is a lot of low-grade corruption in district councils regarding planning decisions." Nothing else in the article throws any further light on this alarming statement.

Does Professor Chisholm have any evidence for what he says? Is he going to produce it?

Those of us who are aware that the planning process is open to public scrutiny, and to the scrutiny of the Department of the Environment and the local government ombudsman, among others, will require a good deal more than a bald statement to be convinced that corruption in planning decisions is anything but a very rare occurrence. Yours faithfully, JED GRIFFITHS, President, Royal Town Planning Institute, London, W1

### Subsidy for the exploited employee

From Dr Harley Dean

Sir: Last Wednesday (11 October), Peter Lilley duly observed the traditions of the Conservative Party Conference by raising the spectre of social security benefit fraud in order ritually to decry it. Obviously, benefit fraud cannot be a good thing, but what kind of a problem is it?

According to the British Social Attitudes survey, around a third of the population agrees that "most people on the dole are fiddling". In reality, the Social Security Benefit Agency's own best evidence is that around 5 per cent of income support claimants, and around 3 per cent of unemployment benefit claimants, can be proved to be fraudulent.

I have been involved in an Economic and Social Research Council-funded research project, ending this month, that has examined the attitudes and motivations of fraudulent benefit claimants. The findings suggest benefit fraud is certainly problematic for those involved in it, but that it is not necessarily the

kind of problem Mr Lilley paints it to be.

First, there is no evidence that the current level of benefit fraud signals any erosion of the work ethic on the part of perpetrators, nor any lack of desire to participate in conventional lifestyles. The one thing guaranteed to dissuade virtually all our respondents from fraudulent claiming would have been the opportunity of reasonably paid employment.

Second, in a high proportion of cases, low-paying employers were directly colluding with fraudulent claimants. We met young people whose only prospect of reliable employment was with the kind of employer who not only expected them to "sign on", but gave them a half day off every fortnight in order to do so.

From the Government's point of view, it might be argued, the existence of benefit fraud is functional for its labour market strategy. Allowing benefit fraud represents a covert way of

subsidising exploitative employers in a hypercapitalised labour market, but without damaging labour supply incentives.

From the claimants' point of view, benefit fraud can be a stressful and largely unrewarding activity. Most of those to whom we spoke were uncomfortable about what they did and had not planned their fraud in a particularly effective way. For them, benefit fraud was not part of any sort of lifestyle choice.

Fraudulent claimants' notions of citizenship and responsibility were often highly ambiguous. Their conceptions appeared to have been impoverished through an erosion of the popular ideals of democratic welfare citizenship. This, of course, could signal a deeper problem for society at large. It is not, however, a problem that is usefully addressed by such devices as computerised "smart cards".

Yours faithfully, HARLEY DEAN, Reader in Social Policy, Department of Social Studies, University of Luton, Luton

### Foreign aid for the British army

From Mr Ken Clark

Sir: The day after Michael Portillo's jingoistic eulogy of the British armed forces, his own department announces that they may have to plug the gaps in the infantry and the paratroopers with Nepalese mercenaries.

Why not let them take over the SAS? Nothing strikes terror like a *kalai*.

Yours, KEN CLARK, Bedford 13 October

From Mr Dennis J. Hill

Sir: In 1952, I served in Korea as a signal platoon sergeant, 1st Bn Royal Fusiliers. Your article "Gurkhas on alert to bolster Paras' depleted infantry" (14 October) caused me to remember that the infantry battalions in the Commonwealth division were

very under-strength and, in consequence, were reinforced with Koreans attached to Commonwealth units (Katcoms).

Young Republic of Korea soldiers were fully integrated into each platoon, about three to a section. They shared the dugouts, the food and the combat duties. Each Katcom was looked after by a British "buddy". They wore our regimental badge with apparent pride and such English as they acquired bore a marked cockney accent.

Surely, there are other precedents for the proposal to bolster the infantry with Nepalese. Given their long and distinguished connection, this would not appear particularly remarkable. Having seen them in action, I believe their presence would instill an extra competitive element within the units concerned, to their mutual benefit.

Sincerely, DENNIS J. HILL, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex

### Spoken English

From Ms Ruth Clarke

Sir: After reading Pam Ayres (Another View: "Parrot me my wrinkles", 13 October), I was reminded of an exquisite piece of conversation I overheard in August between two birdwatchers at Spurn Point on Humberside.

First birdwatcher: "I've just seen a redback." Second birdwatcher: "Who told thee it were one?"

It made my day! Yours sincerely, RUTH CLARKE, Harrold, Bedfordshire

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret that we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

من الاموال



# comment

## The buck wanders round and round

Yesterday, at last, Michael Howard took some responsibility for the bad prisons news – but not enough

Where do bucks stop? Constitutionally, theoretically, the answer is clear: for mistakes made by government, ministers are ultimately answerable to Parliament. They are meant to protect their departments and their civil servants – and if things go badly wrong, to resign. In practice, though, they don't. They have progressively distanced themselves off day to day mistakes. The buck wanders on.

At one level this is sensible. The old doctrine was that, in Aneurin Bevan's phrase, "if a bedpan is dropped, the minister will hear of it". Taken seriously, that would produce deafened, overwhelmed ministers, drowning helplessly in the minutiae of administrative life as they tried to honour the rituals of parliamentary accountability. Men like Michael Howard are there to direct the broad thrust of policy, not to take the blame for every lost jaller's key.

But no one other than the most intellectually indolent defender of the Home Secretary would leave the matter there. By trying to distance the direction of policy from the operation of policy, ministers let themselves off the hook absurdly easily. Whatever goes wrong can always be blamed on the messy failures of executives, rather than on the pure thought of the politicians. They go if they are caught on a stained mattress in Chelsea. But if it's merely a catastrophic failure of public policy – forget it.

This slipperiness is made easier by the rise of a new class of blame-takers, the men and women who run, or ran, the government's executive agencies, whether they be Ros Hepple-

white, ex of the Child Support Agency, or Derek Lewis, as-from-yesterday-ex of the Prison Service. The more freedom they have to manage, independent of ministerial interference, the more blame they have to take when things go wrong. Yet they are always working within the budgets and policies laid down by ministers. They are not the masters or mistresses of their own destinies.

So when bad things happen, such as those in the prison service revealed in yesterday's damning reports by Sir John Larmont and Judge Stephen Thimlin, how are the rest of us to decide who is responsible? How can blame be apportioned fairly between political policy-makers and unelected policy carrier-outs?

The previous report on the White-moor prison breakout, nearly a year ago, went to the heart of the problem when it complained about "some confusion as to the respective roles of ministers, the agency headquarters and individual prison governors... the inquiry has identified the difficulty of determining what is an operational matter and what is policy, leading to confusion as to where responsibility lies."

There is no Solomon of British public life to draw neat lines through chaos. Blame, in these circumstances, is inescapably a matter of politics, of expediency. The failures of lax prison regimes and low morale are too widespread and long-standing for there to be fingerprints, clues, and a neat, Agatha Christie-style villain. There is no one person, or group of people, who can be shown to be personally responsible for a bad Prison



ANDREW MARR  
Commentator of the Year

Service culture going back many years.

What was required was not a trial, but for someone to take responsibility as a matter of honour and in order to expunge public anger. One is reminded of the *Blackadder* scene in the First World War when the officer decides that it is time for a pointless sacrifice. Only this time, it isn't pointless. If it had turned out yesterday, yet again, that no one would take the blame for failure, public cynicism would have been reinforced. This cynicism is already eating away at the reputations of many state institutions.

The question then becomes – who is the person best suited for sacrifice? Whose departure would do most to please the public? And if you put it like that the answer is obvious. Michael Howard has stuffed another 10,000 people into prison as a result of changes to sentencing policy, and his 20-second sound bite at the Tory conference last week changing the rules still further may add another 20,000. He has changed the policy which Derek Lewis was trying to implement. He has striven to get the applause while some other poor devil struggles to make it work. Then when

things get tough, he turns on the poor devil and fires him.

Had Howard sauntered to the ministerial box and resigned he would, at one bound, have done a lot to restore the reputation of himself and of John Major's government. It would have been a moment for jollity and self-congratulation, a far shrewder and more politically astute move than anything he had done at the party conference. Had he resigned, it would have confounded the pundits and left Jack Straw, who suggested that he should resign, utterly agast. Dream on, Marx, dream on.

He took the other option and no one in the land is surprised. Howard had already tried to defend Lewis and distance him from the events at White-moor and Parkhurst, two of the most embarrassing episodes in the modern history of British prisons. For his pains he was howled down in Parliament, derided on *Newsnight* and pilloried by the newspapers. It is hardly surprising that this time he has taken the opposite course.

But by giving up on the cause of Lewis, Michael Howard has not escaped blame himself, or, probably, punishment either; it is merely that the retribution is likely to come a little later and be delivered upon him and his colleagues collectively, through a small but lethal hardening of the attitude of some millions of voters. If the Major administration is defeated at the next election, it will be impossible to look back in retrospect and determine to what extent the Home Secretary's current reputation is responsible. But then some of the most important things in politics are immeasurable.

None of this means that we should be inclined to view Mr Lewis himself as an ill-used man. From the point of view of the higher public good, he is a scrawnier scapegoat than the Home Secretary, but he is better than nothing. The agency managers are responsible for their services, and "responsibility" is not a vague word. He may be shaken by what happened yesterday, but he can hardly claim to have been a wholly innocent bystander. And though he is a poor devil, he has, after all, been a highly paid poor devil.

The predictable result of all this is that even fewer people of high calibre from the private sector will wish to run public agencies, holding their jobs at the whim of ministers who are crisis-driven and unlikely to take responsibility, ever, for bad policy or incompetent legislation.

If there is an answer, it lies not in Whitehall rulebooks, or independent inquiries, but in the hands of MPs themselves, who need to reassert themselves against a mistrusted executive. If Derek Lewis had owed his job to Parliament and not to Michael Howard, then the Home Secretary would not have been judge, jury and counsel for his own defence as well. We could have had a parliamentary inquiry, apportioning blame as between the service and the minister, the operatives and the policy-maker, on behalf of their constituents and paymasters, and deciding the penalty.

This may seem Utopian, but some earlier generations of parliamentarians wouldn't have thought it so. Until then, all we have left are our wry smiles and the distant rumble of wandering bucks.

## Many a proverb makes no sense

Here is a thought for the day: "The perversity of nature is best illustrated by the fact that, when exposed to the same atmosphere, bread will go hard and crackers will go soft."

It took me several minutes hard thought before I stumbled on the fallacy in this idea, but even after spotting the fallacy I still like it. It comes from Paul Dickson's *The New Official Rules*, the great guide to life that I referred to yesterday and which has a deeper purpose than just to amuse, if there can be a deeper purpose than that.

Ostensibly Dickson was just collecting a bunch of mock-scientific rules about life of which some are mildly pointless ("A crowded lift smells worst to the smallest occupant"), some sound meaningful but aren't ("A hen is only an egg's way of making another egg"), and some are brilliant ("The nice thing about being a celebrity is that when you bore people, they think it is their fault" – a quote from, of all people, Henry Kissinger); but Dickson's purpose is not just frivolous. He is trying to codify human life and work out a pattern in the crazy paving of our behaviour.

Nothing new about this. It was first done thousands of years ago when people started inventing or distilling proverbs. Human behaviour is an illogical thing, so you can't frame scientific laws to describe it or measure it; what you can do is work out a set of rough and ready proverbs to describe human habits.

It wasn't long before someone noticed that for every proverb saying one thing there is another saying the opposite – "Many hands make light work" and "Too many cooks spoil the broth", etc – but this doesn't mean that either of them is wrong. It merely means that human behaviour is so contradictory that you have to be self-contradictory to describe it.

The trouble is, though, that people gave up making up proverbs a long time ago, as though we now knew all there was to know about the human condition. From time to time we seem to be aware of this, as when people started producing slogans in the Second World War and these took on the form of proverbs (eg "Careless talk costs lives" or, in the American version, "A slip of the lip can sink a ship").

In the late 1950s *Mad* magazine decided to update some of the best known proverbs, and as a teenager I thought these updates were hilarious. Some of them still work, such as "Fools rush in and get the best seats" and "Rome wasn't built in a day – it just looks that way", while there is a pleasing quality about "A bird in the hand makes it difficult to blow the nose".

There are also remarks tossed off by writers occasionally that have the quality of proverbs and do sometimes work their way into the anthologies, such as Alphonse Allais's "What's the point of getting your hair cut? It only grows again" and Nelson Algren's "Never play cards with a man called Doc, eat at a place called Mom's or lie down with a woman who's got worse troubles than you", but Dickson's is the only serious attempt I know of to make a large enough collection of these modern rules, proverbs, maxims, saws, tenets, whatever you like to call them, to masquerade as a guide to life.

Some of them are universally applicable, such as: "When you move something to a more logical place, you can only remember where it used to be and your decision to move it" and "Troublesome correspondence that is postponed long enough will eventually become irrelevant".



MILES KINGTON

vant". "If at first you do succeed, try to hide your astonishment" is generally useful. "You always find something in the last place you look" is not useful, but it's still a nice idea.

Some are far from universally applicable. I remember in the earlier editions of the book there was a remark from Robert Morley, the actor, to the effect that "You can never be alone while eating pasta". It has now vanished from the book. I wonder why. Is it too introspective to appeal to Americans? Did the Italian food industry object? Did the Mafia object?

The rule of life concerning Dudley Moore, on the other hand, has stayed in. This is a new one to me, and applies very well to Moore though it would apply equally well to many another performer. It defines the five stages in Hollywood stardom as follows: 1. Who's Dudley Moore? 2. Get me Dudley Moore! 3. Get me a Dudley Moore type. 4. Get me a young Dudley Moore. 5. Who's Dudley Moore?

I hope you feel uplifted and improved by this visit to Paul Dickson's world of rules. If not, I won't be surprised. As it says somewhere in the great book: "A public lecture is the best way in which a speaker can transfer the information in his notes to the notebooks of his audience without it passing through either of their heads."

A recipe book to beat all records; but where's the fun in foolproof cooking? asks Rose Shepherd

## Delia runs wild in the bookshop

Even without the price cuts – £5 off at Book Warehouse, £5 off at Sainsbury's and WH Smith – you can bet that *Delia Smith's Winter Collection* would be walking off the shelves, it would be selling like... well, hotcakes. As it is, boosted by prominent displays and generous discounts, the book is breaking publishing records: it has sold more than 500,000 copies in its first week.

In half a million British households, as the nights draw in, people will presumably be sitting down to Tuscan White Bean Soup with Fried Shallots and Pancetta, they'll be tucking into Red Onion Barbequed, calling for more of the Spiced Lambusco Jellies with Brandy Cream and Frosted Black Grapes.

Delia Smith is a publishing phenomenon whose books, according to the latest fly-leaf blurb, have sold more than five million copies. As of now, make that 5.5 million. She is Britain's best-known cook, as influential as was Mrs Beaton in her time.

She queues the pitch for private caterers who must constantly extend their repertoire: where is the kudos, frankly, in serving Roast Duck with Sour Cherry Sauce, when the making of it is, to Delia devotees, a mere bagatelle, and when dried sour cherries may be had from the supermarket? She is a tremendous force for good, magnanimous in her praise for lesser – or less famous – cooks. The public is on chummy first-name terms with her ("Shall we do Delia's stuffed red peppers for a starter?"). Her recipes are sound: good results are almost guaranteed. She is accessible to beginners, and a favourite with more experienced kitchen hands.

She sells as well in the specialist London shop Books for Cooks, according to the manager, Rosie Kinsley, as she does in the high street chains (and you can't say that for all television cookbooks – you can't say it, for instance, of that crafty devil Michael Barry). Delia is, indeed, an all-round good egg, a consummate professional. Yet one suspects her popularity lies, at least partly, elsewhere.

Despite her joyless presentation – well, how often do you see her smile? – she offers treats to turn the head, offers cakes "to die for", encourages us to be "a bit indulgent on the chocolate front", promises warming soups and comforting stews; she appeals to something childish and greedy and needy in us.

She has her own peculiarly formal vocabulary and an achingly prosaic approach. "Ever since I was a small child," she writes, "I have felt a sense of magic in the changing seasons." And "Winter has every bit as much charm as the other seasons for me: the dazzling splendour of autumnal colours and Keats' [sic] as yet unmatched description

of mist and mellow fruitfulness, the stark emptiness of bare branches against the Winter skies, and always the very special pale Winter light."

Unoriginal thinking. Yet it works. It strikes a chord. She makes us hunger after not just "the roast beef of old England" but old England itself – at the same time persuading us that, in her thatched Suffolk home at least, that mythic England survives.

Above all, she is so awesomely efficient and so didactic. She tells us not just how to make a Chocolate Mascarpone Cheesecake, but, between the lines, how to live our lives. "If you are watching your waistline you can skip this chapter or alternatively do what I do: just cook one of them a week, on Sundays!"

Or: "Although batch-baking might be ruled out... you can still take just one free Saturday afternoon, closet yourself in the kitchen and immerse yourself in some very rewarding home baking... Put on some music, listen to the radio, or just be silent with your thoughts."

It's no surprise to learn that she is a devout Catholic. A friend, browsing in a second-hand shop recently, picked up her book *Feasts for Advent* and was surprised to find that he'd



Photograph: BBC

bought not a cookery book but recipes for better living, comfort food for the mind. She told the *Daily Mail*: "I think that in the whole of God's creation, part of his plan is to help people with their cooking and I'm just one little bit of that whole. But I'm not a goody-goody or a holy Joe. I still have the same weaknesses as everybody else."

Her God-given gift, then, is to help us with the cooking. Want to put up Sunday lunch for eight? Roast beef and all the trimmings? Delia will guide you. She will talk you through the timing, from 9.30am, when you pop the sirloin in the oven, till 12.20pm when the Yorkshire pud goes in, so that you and your companions can sit down at the dot of one o'clock.

A dinner party chez Delia would be a seamless presentation. No "we'll take pot luck", no catch-as-catch-can. You'd be assured of a proper pudding. The washing up, meanwhile, would take care of itself.

There is something about her that makes you want to abdicate responsibility: to have her tell you firmly to go wash your hands, that reading in poor light will spoil your eyes, and that it's time for bed. Big sister, one comes to feel, knows best.

There is, with this woman, none of the danger that you have with, for instance, Keith Floyd. No one is going to get drunk and abusive, no one will set fire to the steaks or to themselves. Nor is she remotely like the celebrity television chefs, such as Gary Rhodes or Rick Stein: she is pre-eminently domestic.

Many of her recipes are exotic, but they are passed through the filter of her Englishness, becoming in the process just like mother makes. She is doing more than anyone to demystify foreign cuisines – which is fine if you don't relish the mystique. In Delia's capable hands, Libyan Soup with Couscous comes to seem as homey as one presumes it is in Libya itself. There is no escapism here, no appeal to the senses, other than to a kind of atavistic love of hearth and home and England and St George. Even in her summer collection, she does not trade on images of luscious figs on marble tabletops on sun-drenched Tuscan terraces, or of the vine-clad hills of Provence.

She is married to Michael Wynn Jones, a "writer and editor", as it says in her posited biography. That is to say, he is the editor of Sainsbury's *The Magazine*. Delia Smith is its food editor, but for me she is more than that: she is Sainsbury's – she is that supermarket made flesh. Which is to say, upmarket but not that upmarket, adventurous but not impetuous or wild. She is the reason we have Fontina in our fridges, shrimp paste and dried porcini in our store cupboards. Sainsbury's just happens to be where many of us shop.

The result can be curiously dispiriting. Sun-dried tomatoes become ubiquitous, galangal and kaffir lime leaves commonplace. "Shopping your way round Sainsbury's", as Mr Delia Smith wrote in preface to last month's issue of *The Magazine*, "is like shopping your way around the world, but under one roof." Well, precisely. And there's no big adventure in that.

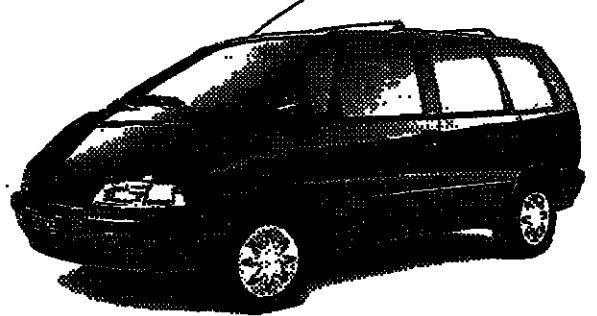
And where is the fun in foolproof cooking? The excitement is all in the danger – and failure a price worth paying. I can't help feeling I'd warn to Delia more if she got sloshed on the cooking sherry, or if her Linguini with Mussels and Walnut Parsley Pesto were just once in a while to go soggy.

### Generation Why



by Tony Reeve and Steve Way

## OUR AIR CON IS NO CON.



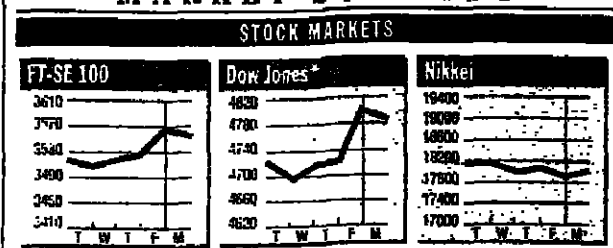
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**MARKET SUMMARY**



Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	12 Mth High	12 Mth Low	Vol (M)
FTSE 100	3557.3	-10.7	-0.3	3570.8	2943.4	4.0
FTSE 250	3939.0	-6.3	-0.2	3991.3	3300.9	3.5
FTSE 350	1771.3	-4.7	-0.3	1778.3	1477.0	3.8
FT Small Cap	1964.1	-0.6	-0.0	1993.1	1678.8	3.3
FT All-Share	1749.7	-4.4	-0.3	1757.6	1485.2	3.8
New York	4799.1	-4.7	-0.1	4801.8	3674.6	2.4
Tokyo	18016.4	+135.6	+0.8	19922.4	14485.4	0.6
Hong Kong	10009.3	+125.5	+1.3	10009.3	6967.9	3.2
Frankfurt	2191.4	-5.4	-0.3	2317.0	1911.0	2.0
Paris	1790.5	-26.5	-1.5	2017.3	1721.8	3.8
Milan	9336.0	-207.0	-2.2	10911.0	9265.0	2.1

\*New Jones at 1500 hours, Dow Jones graph at 1330 hours

**MAIN PRICE CHANGES**

FT-95 350 companies (including investment trusts)				Falls			
Rises				Falls			
	Price(p)	Change(p)	%Change		Price(p)	Change(p)	%Change
Burford	127.5	7.5	6.3	Lloyds Chemists	228	17	8.9
Redpath	473	20	4.4	Unichem	264	11	4.0
DFS Furniture	349	14	4.2	Lucas Industries	195	8	3.9
Danka Bus Sys	579	19	3.4	British Gas	243	9	3.6
Coca Brothers	319	9	2.9	Eurotunnel Units	92	3	3.2

**INTEREST RATES**

Short sterling*		UK medium gilt		US long bond	
Rate	Yield	Rate	Yield	Rate	Yield
6.00	6.00	8.20	8.20	7.25	7.25
6.50	6.50	8.20	8.20	7.00	7.00
6.75	6.75	8.10	8.10	6.75	6.75
6.80	6.80	8.00	8.00	6.50	6.50
6.90	6.90	7.80	7.80	6.25	6.25
7.00	7.00	7.60	7.60	6.00	6.00

\*London Dec 1995, New York Dec 1995

**Money Market Rates**

Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
UK	6.69	6.88	8.08	8.56	8.26	8.42
US	5.81	5.75	5.95	7.80	6.30	7.83
Japan	0.34	0.31	2.86	4.63	3.58	5.00
Germany	4.00	4.00	8.56	7.44	7.18	7.81

\*Benchmark indices

**CURRENCIES**

£/\$		£/DM		£/¥	
Rate	Yield	Rate	Yield	Rate	Yield
1.59	2.31	162.8	162.8	162.8	162.8
1.59	2.29	161.8	161.8	161.8	161.8
1.57	2.27	160.8	160.8	160.8	160.8
1.56	2.26	159.8	159.8	159.8	159.8
1.55	2.25	158.8	158.8	158.8	158.8
1.54	2.24	157.8	157.8	157.8	157.8
1.53	2.23	156.8	156.8	156.8	156.8

\*New York rates and West Wall at 1300 hours

**OTHER INDICATORS**

Indicator	Yesterday	Day's change	Year Ago	Indicator	Yesterday	Day's change	Year Ago
Oil Brent \$	16.30	+0.07	15.76	RPI	150.6	3.9pc	2.4
Gold \$	384.00	unch	387.80	GDP	-	2.8pc	4.1
Gold £	243.70	-0.53	243.39	Base Rates	-	6.75pc	5.25

Source: Datastream

**IN BRIEF**

**Franc weakens...**

The French franc weakened against the mark, losing over a centime on the day to close in London trading at 3.49DM. The fresh weakness was occasioned in part by the decision by the Banque de France to cut the overnight loan rate by a quarter of a per cent to 7 per cent only a week after it had raised the rate by 1.1 per cent to combat a speculative run on the currency. The franc was also weakened following a report in *Le Monde* suggesting that finance minister Jean Arthuis might be involved in a political party funding scandal.

**...as Germans hope for rate cut**

Hopes that the Bundesbank might ease interest rates further were prompted by fresh evidence that inflation was under control and that the economy was weakening. Consumer prices rose in September by 1.6 per cent rather than the 1.8 per cent initially estimated. And industrial production in August was down by 3.4 per cent and July's rise was sharply revised down to 1.7 per cent. Officials said that the data was distorted by the summer holidays, but Holger Fabrikus, an economist at UBS in Frankfurt, said that the figures were consistent with "underlying weakness" in the economy, resulting from the strength of the mark in the first half of the year.

**Winckler steps up at SIB**

The Securities and Investments Board, the City's top regulator, announced yesterday that Andrew Winckler, currently head of supervision, is to succeed John Young as chief executive when he retires at the end of the year. Mr Young will remain on the SIB board as a non-executive. Brian Smith, who retires as head of operations, will be succeeded by Roderick Chamberlain.

**Pru's premium income down**

Prudential, the UK's largest insurer, yesterday announced a 13 per cent fall in worldwide regular premium income in the first nine months of 1995, down to £34.2m compared to the same period last year. Single premium sales dropped by 14 per cent over the same period, to £3.2bn.

**Medeva finance director on the move**

Dennis Millard, finance director of Medeva, is moving to take up the same position at Cookson, the ceramics to precious metals group. He replaces Ian Barr, who retires. Mr Millard dismissed suggestions that the decision was related to the collapse of merger talks between Medeva and Fisons earlier this year. He had been seen as favourite in some quarters to become finance director of the enlarged group. Mr Millard's currently earns around £200,000, compared with £187,000 for Mr Barr.

**Irish clearance for Arco's Aran bid**

The Irish government has cleared Arco's bid for Aran Energy. Richard Bruton, minister for enterprise and employment, said yesterday he would not refer the proposed takeover to the competition authority.

**Hornby chief quits**

Hornby, the toy group, said that Keith Ness would step down as chief executive as of this Friday and cease to be a director of the company. While the board finds a successor, Peter Newey, a non-executive director, will step in as chief executive.

**Leeson affair: Island authorities expected to criticise lack of London supervision in report on £860m crash**

# Bank ready for Barings attack from Singapore

**STEPHEN VINES**  
Singapore  
**and JOHN EISENHAMMER**  
London

The Bank of England was bracing itself last night for a barrage of criticism from Singapore, which today publishes its version of the destruction of Barings. Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, will not be available in London to respond to the Singapore report's criticism as he is currently on a goodwill tour of the main Asian financial centres. Singapore is not on the itinerary.

The eight-month investigation into the bankruptcy of the merchant bank under £860m of derivatives losses has seen mounting diplomatic tension between the Singapore authorities and the Bank of England over where the blame lies for failures in regulation and supervision.

From the start of investigations into the Barings collapse the British and Singaporean regulatory authorities treated



Taking the blame: The rogue trader, Nick Leeson (left), with his lawyer, Stephen Pollard, and his wife, Lisa

each other with mutual suspicion. Bank of England investigators complained that that they could only present an incomplete picture because they were denied access to documents and evidence in Singapore, where Nick Leeson, the Singapore trader carried out his ruinous dealings.

The Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex) said yesterday that its disciplinary committee had imposed a fine of Singapore \$6.95m (£3.15m) on Barings Futures (Singapore), the local Barings office where Nick Leeson was the senior derivatives trader. Barings collapsed at the end of February.

In June the Hearing Committee of Simex's board found the British investment bank was guilty of: accepting orders without causing them to be executed on the exchange; breaching its fiduciary duties by permitting the creation of false records in relation to the prices recorded for the position of two accounts; supplying false information to the exchange about the position in its long trades and for dishonest conduct in relation to fictitious trades and entries recorded.

There is little hope that it will shed much light on the activities of the island state's regulatory authorities, the inspectors have managed to put together a fuller picture of Mr Leeson's activities than was offered in the Bank of England report. The Singapore authorities are anxious to avoid the Barings fiasco tainting the reputation of the local futures exchange.

The build-up to the long-awaited publication of the Singapore report by the Finance Ministry, some three months after the Bank of England's account, has been punctuated by insiders' suggestions it will contain savage criticism of Barings management. It is not clear however, whether fears of prejudicing pending legal action will mean that parts of the report remain confidential. Although

# Banham gets a mixed reception

**NIGEL COPE**

The appointment of Sir John Banham, the former director-general of the CBI, as the next chairman of troubled retail group Kingfisher met with a mixed reaction yesterday. Though analysts and institutional investors were relieved the company had finally made an appointment after a nine-month search and agreed Sir John was a high-profile choice, there were concerns his bulging portfolio of non-executive directorships and lack of retail experience would reduce his effectiveness in the role.

The company has declined to comment on Sir John's remuneration, but there are concerns over the possible salary level. Before his demotion to chief executive, Sir Geoff Mulcahy earned more than £1m in his last year as Kingfisher chairman. Kingfisher's shares closed 8p lower at 502p yesterday though the fall was attributed to the possible impact on the group's Superdrug chain after Asda's decision to cut the price of over-the-counter medicines and court a drugs price war.

One retail analyst said Sir John was "the wrong man for the job" and that Kingfisher would still be dominated by Sir Geoff. Another expressed concern that Sir John's other responsibilities might limit the time he can devote to Kingfisher. He is chairman of Farmac and West Country Television and a non-executive director of National Westminster Bank and National Power. Kingfisher has said Sir John will spend two days a week at the company.

# Now Asda cuts drug prices

**NIGEL COPE**

Shares in Britain's largest high street chemists' groups slumped yesterday following the decision by Asda to cut the price of over-the-counter medicines and increase the prospect of a price war in the UK drugs market. Boots fell 15.5p to 568p. Lloyds Chemists finished 17p lower at 228p while Unichem, the wholesaler and retailer, closed down 11p at 264p. Asda shares fell 1.5p to 103.5p.

The other major supermarket groups have not yet followed Asda's lead, though Sainsbury and Tesco said they would monitor the situation. Boots, the UK's largest pharmacy chain, said it would not break the resale price agreement. A spokesman said: "We don't think it should be abandoned."

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# Hint of housing recovery

**NIC CICHUTH**

Tentative signs of a housing market recovery emerged yesterday after a survey showed more people went house-hunting last month.

Cuts in mortgage interest rates helped boost house interest for estate agents in Yorkshire, Humberside, East Anglia, the South-east, Wales and London, according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Some of the larger estate agency chains claimed the increase in sales was partly due to a more realistic approach by sellers when setting prices. Royal Insurance Property Services, which launched a "sale" of properties on its books last month, said it had already sold about 900 of the 11,000 homes whose owners were prepared to drop their prices.

Overall, 10 per cent of RICS estate agents said business was better last month than in August. The survey follows Bank of England figures showing a rise in new mortgage offers by lenders in August. Halifax and Nationwide building societies recorded a slight rise in average house prices last month.

But banks said their own increased lending may have been caused by buyers trying to beat the October deadline for the introduction of government cuts in benefit for mortgage-payers who lose their jobs.

# Trocadero to get listing in Burford demerger

**TOM STEVENSON**  
Deputy City Editor

The chequered history of one of London's busiest tourist destinations took another twist yesterday as the Trocadero confirmed it is to gain a stockmarket listing later this year. Shares in Burford Holdings, the property company that currently owns the site at Piccadilly Circus, jumped 7.5p to 127.5p after it announced the planned demerger.

Burford only acquired the Trocadero last September, picking the leisure and shopping centre up from receivers KPMG for £94m, a snip compared to its estimated £250m value at the top of the property boom, when it was owned by

the leisure company Brent Walker and Power Corporation, the Irish property investor. One of the most respected and entrepreneurial property companies, Burford surprised no one when it transformed the potential value of the tawdry, under-exploited site soon after the acquisition by teaming up with Japanese entertainment giant Sega to launch Europe's biggest indoor space-age theme park, SegaWorld.

The deal transformed 120,000 sq ft of unlettable office space into what is expected by next summer to become a paradise for lovers of Star Trek, virtual reality games and stomach-churning rides. Although the Trocadero attracts more than 16 million visitors a

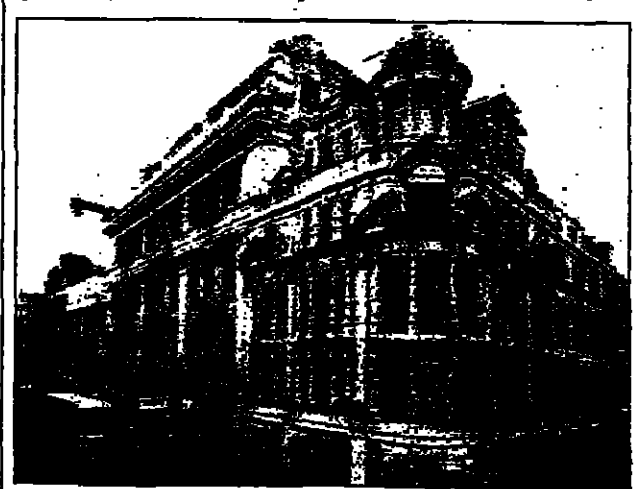
year, until now few have actually spent anything there, giving the site enormous unrealised potential.

The first SegaWorld, in Yokohama on the outskirts of Tokyo, has been a huge success, despite occupying a much less favourable location than the Trocadero. Burford plans to demerge the Trocadero by offering its shareholders a share in the leisure site for every Burford unit they already own. The new Trocadero will be listed on Aim, the new market for start-up and young companies, until it has the requisite trading record to allow it to move to the main market.

The demerger is the latest move by a company that has left its peers standing throughout the recession and since. From 1990, soon after it bailed out of property at the top of the market, its shares have quadrupled. This year, when most of the sector has been struggling, Burford's shares have jumped 38 per cent.

Part of the rationale behind the demerger is to capitalise on the high rating that Burford believes the Trocadero should attract.

According to Nigel Wray, Burford's chairman, companies with both the earnings streams that leisure businesses provide and the asset backing characteristic of property companies tend to be undervalued by the stockmarket.



Going it alone: The Trocadero site at Piccadilly Circus

Brown as Br purges

GEC tel chief set





"From a shipwreck only three years ago, when few could see a future for this also-ran of the sector, Asda seems to be establishing a quite distinct place for itself in the market"

## Asda's gain is the Conservative Party's loss

Archie Norman's attempt to undermine the right of manufacturers to set prices for over-the-counter medicines may for the moment involve only a limited number of products, but this could be just the beginning. Any breach of the dam, however small, is likely to prove fatal for the whole edifice. Following the demise of the Net Book Agreement - in which Mr Norman also had a hand - the protection of non-prescription drug prices is the last remaining legal price fixing arrangement. It is perhaps remarkable that this apparent anomaly has gone unchallenged for so long. Even so, the established manufacturers and pharmacy chains such as Boots will fight tooth and nail to preserve it.

The free market argument for abolishing the exemption centres on price. Asda says we pay too much for basic medicines. The profit margins on toiletries, for example, is around 50 per cent higher than those on food items. The argument for maintaining some kind of price fixing centres on choice and ease of access to a local pharmacy - pretty similar to the arguments in favour of the net book agreement.

If the OTC exemption disappeared, the supermarkets would cut prices, forcing small, independent pharmacies out of business, or so the argument goes. There is also an extra element in this debate that was absent from that over the net book agreement. The Government's free market principles should place it philosophically on the

side of deregulation, but its actual policies may put it on the other side of the fence. Its determination to shift the provision of medication out of hospitals and towards local GPs - while at the same time moving more drugs off prescription to make them available over the counter - would argue strongly in favour of preserving the present set-up.

What is clear is that Archie Norman is playing a shrewd hand. After his successful challenge to the Net Book Agreement, this is another public relations triumph that helps establish Asda as people's champion and a low cost alternative to rivals Sainsbury and Tesco. From a shipwreck only three years ago, when few could see a future for this also-ran of the sector, Asda seems to be establishing a quite distinct place for itself in the market. Fortunately for Asda's shareholders, Mr Norman's appetite for sinking ships is a limited one. Persistent speculation over his political ambitions have recently been quashed. Asda's gain is the Conservative Party's loss.

### Latest sad scene in the Cedric saga

Poor Cedric Brown. He just can't seem to get it right. Having accepted a 75 per cent pay increase, he has now publicly denounced the hair shirt to atone for it, by refusing to join the board's long-term incentive bonus scheme. Both decisions are equally idiotic.

The justification for long term schemes, as companies never tire of telling their shareholders, is to motivate management to deliver top performance. Possibly Mr Brown thinks that theory is tosh, and that basic salary is more than enough by way of incentive. If so, you have to wonder why the company is continuing at all with a bonus scheme that will benefit 250 others.

More likely, this is another badly written scene in the painfully slow tragedy of Mr Brown's downfall. The original pay rise, justified as replacing an old and poorly structured bonus scheme, has already undermined Mr Brown's authority inside and outside the company. With the departure, announced yesterday, of his longest serving executive colleague, he has become an isolated figure on the board, the last of the executives who grew up with the company.

Chief executive he may still be, but power is slipping away. Increasingly that power now resides with Richard Giordano, the chairman. His critical views of some of the policy decisions taken before he arrived, particularly of refusal to contemplate demergering the public gas supply business, is well known.

As the share price has been indicating for some time, British Gas is in a hole. The company is being progressively squeezed by the introduction of competition, which has knocked its share of the industrial users' market for six at a time when selling prices are falling and high price North Sea pro-

duction contracts are eating a hole in its balance sheet. Next year, competition begins experimentally in the domestic market, and who knows what that may lead to.

The company's safe and lucrative monopoly business is the transmission grid, but the terms under which it runs the grid are under attack from the regulator, Clare Spottiswoode. Mr Giordano is wrestling with a serious problem. The public perception of British Gas is that it is a profiteering monopoly run by overpaid executives. The commercial reality of the profits outlook, as the City has been aware since well before the salary scandal broke, is exactly the opposite.

### Waiting for more smoke and mirrors

The Conservatives have danced away at least six of the seven veils in their heavy hints of tax cuts to come in the November budget. The result in the short run at least is that the markets will be casting an even broader eye on the PSBR for September.

The first five months of the year has brought little but disappointment on the budget deficit. If the City's forecast of around £4bn for September is proved right, then that will add a further month in which there was no improvement. The underlying position - excluding privatisation receipts - is showing some modest decline, at £900m

a month. The implication would be a PSBR not far short of last year's eventual deficit of £36bn.

Last week's Green Budget from the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Goldman Sachs projected a more optimistic outcome of £27bn, but even that is still considerably worse than the £21.5bn foreseen by the Treasury at the time of the last budget. The shortfall has arisen principally on the revenue side. Receipts are lower, says the Green Budget, because both inflation and growth are lower than expected.

Despite this, the Green Budget said that modest tax cuts of £2.5bn next year were compatible with a PSBR of £17bn for 1996-97, which is not far short of the government's objective of £13bn last November. However, that is based on the notion that there will be a decline in real public spending in 1996/7. This, however, is a pre-election or election year. Traditionally, chancellors loosen the purse strings in such years. To tighten them might seem like political madness.

Scepticism about such a scenario is widespread in the City, as is the notion that Kenneth Clarke will in practice yank this year's PSBR back into shape by not allocating to spending departments the contingency reserve of £3bn. It hardly makes for a propitious background for a tax-cutting budget, but one is coming for sure. No doubt the Treasury is already putting in an advance order for smoke and mirrors.

Boardroom upheaval: Speculation over future of chief executive grows as he waives right to £2m long-term incentive scheme

## Brown hangs on as British Gas purges old guard

MARY FAGAN  
Industrial Correspondent

British Gas announced sweeping boardroom changes yesterday, leaving chief executive, Cedric Brown, as the only remaining member of the old guard. The shake-out - the biggest since Richard Giordano became chairman in January 1994 - coincided with confirmation that Mr Brown is waiving his right to a long-term incentive scheme that could eventually have earned him about £2m in shares.

The move fuelled speculation over the future of Mr Brown, who has almost five years to go before he officially retires. However British Gas said: "Cedric is not going" and that the changes announced yesterday are "part of an on-going process of orderly change". City analysts said some purge of the old guard has been expected to take British Gas forward in a changing industry.

At the same time the company revealed details of the incentive scheme, under which three directors have been "allocated" a total of up to 287,452 shares worth almost £700,000 at yesterday's closing price. The number finally awarded depends on company performance and the shares will not be released for five or six years.

The management changes include the abrupt departure yesterday of Russell Herbert, the 51-year-old executive director with responsibilities including the global gas business. His duties will be assumed by Stephen Brandon, who recently joined the board from General Electric of the US.

It was also announced that Howard Dalton and Norman Blacker, also executive directors, will retire "in due course". Mr Dalton is aged 61 and has responsibilities including exploration and production. Mr Blacker is 57 and has been

with British Gas since 1969. His duties cover Europe and the UK gas trading operations.

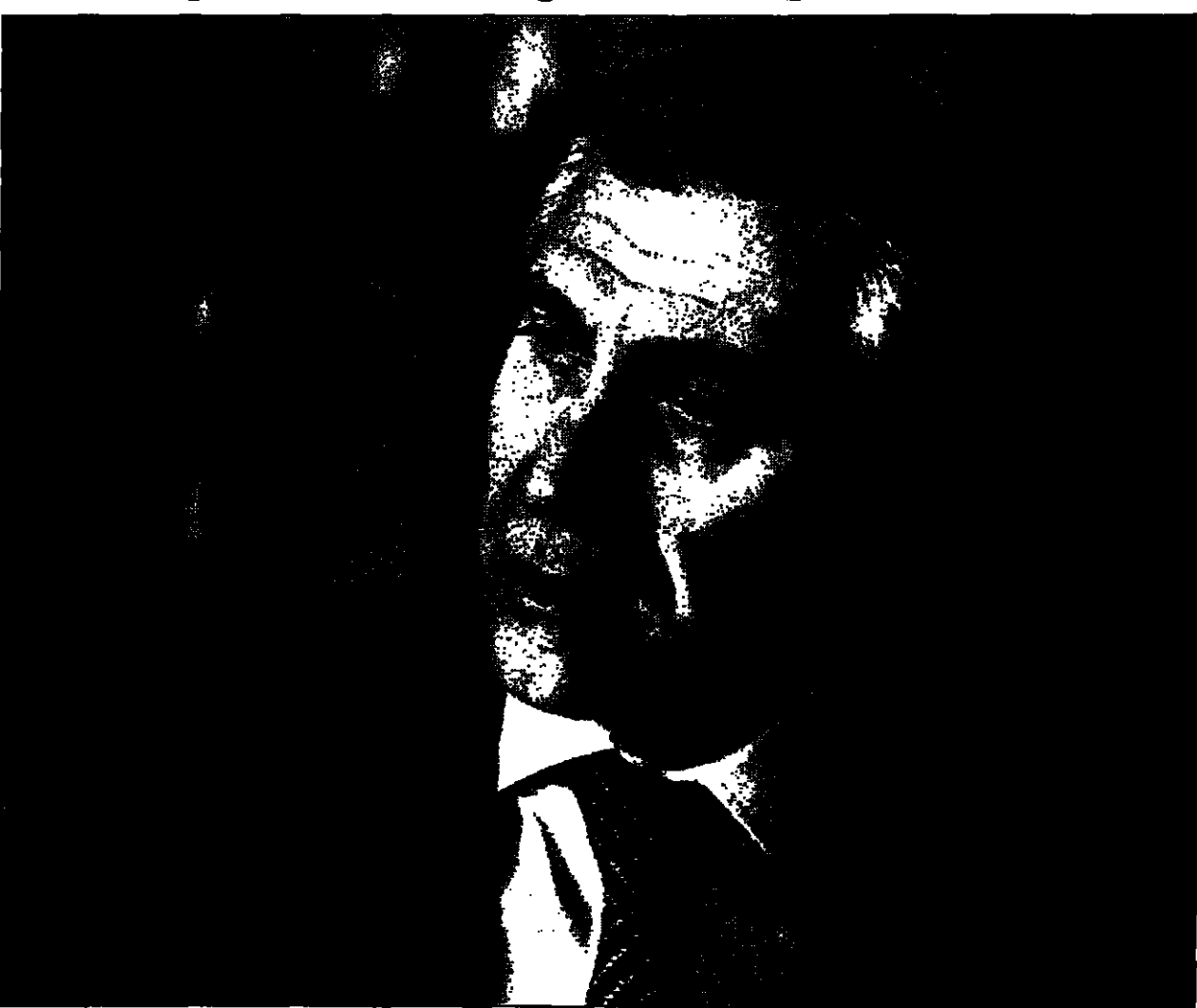
The company refused to comment on whether Mr Herbert, who has been with British Gas since 1966, will receive any payoff. He was on a two-year rolling contract with pay and benefits last year totalling £178,000. It is also unclear what will happen to the residential property bought jointly by British Gas and Mr Herbert in 1992. Last year's annual report valued the company's share of the property at about £40,000.

Mr Brown has been at the centre of controversy since it was revealed last November that his basic pay had been increased by 75 per cent to £475,000. The situation has been exacerbated by a series of public relations fiascos that have dogged the company for almost a year.

Explaining his decision not to take part in the long-term incentive scheme, Mr Brown said: "I believe too much attention has been paid to my remuneration over the past 11 months and sincerely hope that we can now get on with the many complex and difficult challenges facing the company. I strongly believe it is in the best interests of the company if I do not participate in the scheme."

One City analyst said the changes announced yesterday should not be seen as an attempt to apportion blame. "This reflects the need for a smaller, more commercially oriented and more dynamic board. It should mean a better chance of getting key decisions through," he said.

The relentless demise of British Gas' reputation from



Mover and shaker: Under Richard Giordano, British Gas is likely to seek international expansion Photograph: Geraint Lewis

one of being highly regarded by the public has astonished the City and the industry as a whole. The company is being forced to restructure to prepare for competition in the domestic gas market from next spring - a timetable imposed by the Government that has been widely but quietly criticised as being too tight.

The resulting upheaval caused a deterioration in some service standards and unhappiness among many customers. It has also caused problems between British Gas and rival suppliers who need to use the company's pipes.

British Gas has also exacerbated the situation by introducing a series of deeply

unpopular measures ranging from discounts for prompt payers at the expense of others to the ending of bill payment at gas showrooms.

Complaints and enquiries made to the company and to the Gas Consumers' Council have soared. In what became a vicious spiral earlier this year the company could not cope with the influx of telephone calls, which in turn caused even more complaints.

The Gas Consumers' Council holds the view that the company, while attempting to bring standards of service towards former levels, does not feel that British Gas has focused itself enough on the consumer. There is also a view in the industry that

the company, under Mr Giordano's rein, will become more of an international player and could even sell out of public gas supply as competition grows and margins are squeezed. It is thought that Ofgas would not object to such a move, as long as the gas supply operation was sold piecemeal. The regional electricity companies, most of which already supply gas to industrial or commercial users, would probably be keen to buy.

The bulk of British Gas' assets in the UK in any case lie in the multi-billion pound pipeline system, which will remain a monopoly. It is seen as the jewel in the crown. But any sale of the gas supply business would

end the group's role as a public service company. And that, whatever the ambitions of the young blood in the boardroom, is still how millions of consumers see British Gas.

### British Gas Directors

Director	Joined
Cedric Brown	1992
Ray Gardner	1994
Philip Rogerson	1992
Stephen Brandon	1995
Going	
Russell Herbert	1996
Howard Dalton	1990
Norman Blacker	1990

## GEC telecoms chief set to go

The chairman of GEC's telecoms division may be asked to resign today at what is likely to be a tense board meeting of the defence electronics giant, writes Russell Hotten.

Richard Reynolds, a GEC director and long-time executive at GPT, is thought to be behind criticism of the way the appointment of a successor to Lord Weinstock has been handled. Observers believe it is unlikely that Mr Reynolds can survive, and one source said it was possible he will go before he is pushed.

Concern that Lord Weinstock's son, Simon, would replace him as managing director at GEC is said to have led Mr Reynolds to begin a campaign among some institutional shareholders to stop the move. Mr Reynolds, 56, failed to gather much support among other GEC directors.

Mr Reynolds, who joined GEC in 1960 and was appointed a director in 1986, may have had ambitions to succeed Lord Prior as chairman, though the company ruled this out some time ago. Two weeks ago Lord Prior tried to kill growing speculation about the succession by saying a shortlist was close to being completed. Simon Wein-

stock was not thought to be one of the final candidates.

George Simpson, chief executive of Lucas, has emerged as one of the favourites to succeed Lord Weinstock. Lucas yesterday said the suggestion, which caused a dip in the share price, was just speculation.

Mr Simpson joined Lucas in April 1994 from British Aerospace, where he was deputy chief executive. He was credited with turning round Rover Cars before it was sold to BMW. He also worked closely with GEC, BAE's largest customer.

Other candidates to replace Lord Weinstock are Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman of Courtauld and Reuters, and Peter Levene, former procurement chief at the Ministry of Defence.

Today's GEC board meeting is also due to confirm the appointment as a non-executive director of Richard Needham, the former trade minister.

## Ford to double capacity at Wales engine plant

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Ford, the US car company, was today hoping to confirm plans for an investment of more than £300m to double capacity at its engine plant in South Wales.

The company's executives were last night said to be putting the finishing touches to the plan, which is expected to be announced by the Secretary of State for Wales, William Hague.

The Government is backing the project with state aid, and officials worked hard behind the scenes to persuade Ford to choose its Bridgend plant against competition from factories in Spain and Germany.

"There are still one or two administrative things to be sorted," said a Ford spokesman. "We are hopeful of news."

The investment is likely to provide a huge jobs boost, both at Bridgend and among UK components suppliers. Speculation that the investment would be between £250m and £300m was said by one Ford source to be "a bit of a mark".

The Bridgend plant employs about 800 workers and produces about 550,000 engines a year, including engines for Ford's popular Mondeo model. Last April, Ford said it was putting another

£200m into a new production line for diesels at its Dagenham plant in Essex. The expansion means Bridgend will make the 1.25 litre Zetec engine for Ford's new Fiesta car, which will be unveiled at the London Motor Show on Thursday.

Alex Trotman, Ford's chairman, told a conference yesterday: "We feel very good about prospects for 1996. We are going into 1996 with an extremely strong product line."

For the industry as a whole, 1996 would be a stronger year than 1995, and further improvements are likely in 1997, Mr Trotman said. He added that Ford is looking to add an additional 200-300 new dealers in Japan as part of the US/Japan car agreement, in addition to its existing 300 dealers.

"We'd like to sign some of the very strong indigenous Japanese dealers, primarily Nissan and Toyota." He added that the strong Japanese auto sales presence in the US was built up on the back of Ford, General Motors and Chrysler dealers.

Meanwhile, Rover car company today confirmed that it was exploring the possibilities of building a new engine plant, possibly in the West Midlands. "We will eventually need new engine facilities and it is likely that we will make a decision within the next six months," a Rover spokesman said.

However, BMW, Rover's parent, played down the suggestion. "Neither the plant's capacity, nor how much we will invest in it, nor its location has yet been decided," a spokesman said.

### COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Barclays Holdings (p)	0.620 (0.490)	0.370 (0.20)	1.21p (0.75p)	nil (nil)
British Property (p)	1.22m (0.72m)	0.34m (0.22m)	0.40p (0.46p)	nil (nil)
Highland China (p)	181m (178m)	42.9m (42.5m)	22.1p (21.5p)	7.5p (7.25p)
Northwest Televis (p)	253m (228m)	0.07m (0.03m)	38.1p (14.3p)	4.6p (3.8p)
Howell (p)	4.19m (4.19m)	0.37m (2.24m)	1.5p (-71.4p)	nil (nil)
Reading Brewery (p)	0.43m (0.25m)	0.23m (0.07m)	3.17p (0.65p)	nil (nil)
Singapore Press Holdings (p)	0.53m (0.24m)	0.34m (0.15m)	2.27p (0.76p)	nil (nil)
(p) - Company (p) - Total (p) - Britain				

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Details of the proposals referred to above are contained in the document dated 16th October, 1995 which has been approved by the London Stock Exchange and Hong Kong Stock Exchange as listing particulars relating to China & Eastern Investment Company Limited (the "Listing Particulars"). Copies of the Listing Particulars may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) from the date of this notice up to and including 18th October, 1995 (for collection only) from the Company Announcements Office, London Stock Exchange Tower, Capel Court, Off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 1HP and during normal business hours from the date of this notice up to and including 31st October, 1995 from:

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EC2M 3XY

17th October, 1995

## business

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

## Cash-rich Farnell looks overseas

Lucky Farnell Electronics just doesn't know what to do with all the cash thrown off by its successful catalogue-based component distribution business. Despite paying £37m on acquisitions – principally fellow distributor Combined Precision Components in May – Farnell still had over £70m in net cash at the end of July, representing 38 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Unless the group finds something to spend the money on, this embarrassment of riches is only going to deepen. Yesterday's half-year results to July were inflated by the £35.3m gain on the sale of Farnell's manufacturing arm, but underlying profits grew by a healthy 25 per cent to £36m. That translated into operating cash flow of £17.6m even before acquisitions and disposals.

CPC, which sells to the UK repair market, is going like a train and actually ran out of catalogues in the spring. There is still plenty of scope to lever its 15 per cent margins, possibly up to the 20 per cent plus typical in the rest of the group's catalogue business.

What can be done is illustrated by Multicomponents, acquired in December 1993 and now a large part of the group's other division, distributing electronic bits and pieces to industrial customers. Margins have been raised from around 1.5 per cent to 6 per cent, tripling profits in under two years, and management is now aiming to lift the divisional return on sales to over 10 per cent.

Even so, with over 80 per cent of the home market tied up between Farnell and Electrocomponents, its slightly bigger competitor, the more exciting growth is to be had overseas. The European market, worth up to \$6bn, is six times as big as that of the UK, while

the US is three times as big again. The Far Eastern market is also substantial.

Farnell is having success with its formula overseas. Australia and France are becoming substantial businesses and the only real disappointment in the half year was Germany, where restrictions on supplies from IBM knocked sales though profits doubled.

But the real excitement must come from Farnell's entry this month into the key US and Far Eastern markets. The £1.5m or so cost to profits this year could take up to three years to pay back, but the cash cost will be small and fully justified by the potential returns.

Upgraded forecasts put profits at £75m this year, rising to £86m next, giving a prospective p/e of 18, falling to

16, with the shares at 658p, up 7p. The overseas moves carry some risk, but that does not justify the substantial discount to Electrocomponents' rating. Hold.

## Famous Grouse about tax bill

Whether or not you agree with the Scotch industry's persistent bleatings for a more equitable tax regime, full-year figures from Highland Distilleries yesterday underlined the need for something to give.

With input costs on the rise, over-heads already pared down effectively

and retail prices remaining under pressure it is hard to see where profits growth is going to come from.

Not from growing volumes, if sales trends in the world's biggest markets are any guide. Last year Europe as a whole was flat as a pancake, although even that flatters as the UK, still more than half Highland's business, fell worryingly.

That led to a disappointing pre-tax profits rise of just 1 per cent to £42.9m (£42.5m). It was punished by the stockmarket, where the shares fell 12p to 379p.

Forecasts, already fairly unambitious, were revised in yesterday.

The only bright spot for investors was the comfortable dividend cover, which meant that despite earnings per share only improving slightly to 22.1p (21.9p), the full-year payout was able to jump 9 per cent to 7.3p (7.26p).

Highland's biggest problem is its unusually large exposure to the UK consumer, which last year bought 7 per cent less Scotch than the year before. That makes it even more vulnerable than the rest of the industry to what does appear to be an unfairly harsh tax bill, which accounts for £7.63 of the cost of a £12.50 bottle of whisky.

The company has stuck to its guns on price but doing so has had the inevitable result, with consumers objecting to paying maybe £2 more per bottle for Famous Grouse than for the supermarkets' own brands.

In the short term profits are unlikely to exceed more than about £45m this year.

On a prospective price/earnings ratio of over 16, a big premium to Guinness, the shares still look expensive.

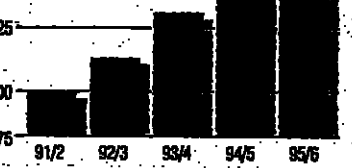
## Farnell Electronics: at a glance

Market value: £289m, share price 658p

Trading record	1993	1994	1995	1996
Turnover (£m)	294.5	320.0	344.0	369.0
Pre-tax profits (£m)	41.6	49.1	58.2	71.3
Earnings per share (pence)	22.1	24.5	28.7	31.9
Dividends per share (pence)	6.2	7.4	8.0	8.6

## Catalogue sales

First half % increase



## Share price

pence



## The right sort of takeover boom

ECONOMIC VIEW

HAMISH McRAE



The wave of takeovers continues. Bull markets and takeover booms are so closely associated it would be very odd, with a secure economic recovery and the Footsie within a whisker of its all-time high, were there not a surge of takeovers and mergers. The interesting question is not to ask why there should be a boom, but rather to ask why this one is different from previous versions, and in particular how a different sort of takeover boom might interact with what is clearly a different sort of economic recovery.

Overstating somewhat, this boom has two main distinguishing features: it is concentrated into a small number of specific areas, in particular financial services and the former nationalised public utilities, and the rationale is unusually skewed towards cost-cutting. You do not, on the whole, get chief executives in the UK proclaiming that they are bidding for this or that firm because it is a wonderful way to expand into a new and exciting market. Instead the stress is on the savings that might come from rationalisation. Unsurprisingly, financial services and public utilities are the areas where the perceived savings are greatest.

So the merger boom is not a late-1980s burst of euphoria; rather a mid-1990s cold shower. And of course this is reflected in the different tone of the economic recovery. Tell people that last year saw the highest growth since 1988 and they are unimpressed. It doesn't feel like that. The sense of insecurity is far too great.

All this might seem straightforward. It is quite reasonable to argue that a different sort of economic recovery should require a different sort of corporate response. What is less obvious is the way in which the corporate response makes possible a different set of economic policies.

In a nutshell, a series of takeovers where the rationale is to grind down costs – and inevitably employment – both demands and makes possible an expansionist economic policy, whereas a takeover boom built on an overly confident perception of the prospects for growth demands a restrictive set of policies. The only way in which the people who lose their jobs

in the large companies will find employment is by there being sufficient growth in smaller firms. That can only happen under conditions of decent growth.

On the other hand, a world where companies are grinding down costs instead of passing them on in higher prices is an economy that can sustain cheap money without that money immediately feeding through the economy, creating higher inflation. Monetary policy, by the way, must be used to encourage growth. In the text-books they still suggest governments can stimulate growth by running an easy fiscal policy. But the danger of a perverse reaction in the bond markets is too great.

A number of countries that allowed their fiscal deficits to rise sharply during the last eco-

more relentless the extraction of consequential cost savings, the more the authorities can take risks with inflation. That does not mean they can go wild, nor does it mean they should expand their fiscal deficits. But it does mean there is a micro-economic or structural reason for seeking to hold down interest rates, as well as any macro-economic reasons.

A third is that the more the Government of the day seeks to slow the process, as a future Labour government might, the less it can rely on this to hold down inflationary forces. For it is not just post-merger restructuring that helps cut costs; fear-of-takeover restructuring is just as effective.

Economists are not good at spotting the way in which micro and macro policies interact. Remember how the failure to see how financial deregulation and easy money would feed on each other exacerbated the 1987/88 boom. But that was a negative interaction bound to end in tears. The present process is positive. Or rather it is positive provided it is sustained by the authorities.

So what will happen next? There is a natural cycle to the mergers in both financial services and the public utilities. At some stage in the next year, perhaps 18 months, the job will be done. On past experience, however, long before those two particular seams are mined, the markets will be seeking other areas where a reorganisation of the corporate world promises similar cost savings. So the takeover boom can run for rather longer than that.

What might choke it off? One candidate would be a sharp rise in interest rates, probably associated with a sharp fall in share prices. Another would be a less liberal attitude to mergers. But provided the authorities appreciate that the more rapid the structural change in the company sector the greater the economy's capacity for growth, the less likely they are to call a halt. Expect this particular show to run a while yet.

## This is not a 1980s burst of euphoria, but a 90s cold shower

economic cycle, in particular Canada, Sweden and Italy, saw a correspondingly sharp rise in the risk premium demanded by the bond markets. If long rates go up, they invariably drag short rates up behind. Result: any stimulus through an easy fiscal policy was offset by higher interest rates.

So this is the takeover boom that is not only wholly consistent with cheap money, it actually requires cheap money. Put another way, the micro-economic process of industrial restructuring needs cheap money both to finance it and to shelter its victims from the harsh consequences. If this argument is right, there are a number of practical consequences. The first and in a way most interesting to the financial markets is that this takeover boom can continue for a long while.

A second is that the more mergers that take place and the

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Mike Catt, the England rugby union full-back, and the first player to turn professional, is shortly to announce a sponsorship deal with a firm of management consultants. The coup is certain to lead to collective hysteria among rival firms, followed by a mad scramble for the remainder of the England team.

England rugby internationals will be paid £40,000 a year by the Rugby Football Union this season. Like footballers, they are free to negotiate individual deals on top of their salaries. But while Eric Cantona makes big bucks from his endorsement of Nike boots, rugby players may find it more difficult to push the questionable benefits of management consultancy.

It is one thing for Andersen Consulting to plaster its name over the crash helmet of the Grand Prix driver Damon Hill (although the image is slightly tarnished when filmed amid the wreckage of his Williams Renault). But there is not much mileage to be had from a minuscule logo stitched on the shorts of a fast-running player (unless he happens to be sent off).

No, the consultants must surely expect more. Post-match interviews with players are sure to degenerate into the changing exercises pioneered by the Grand Prix drivers.

One firm that may have a distinct advantage is McKinsey. It could follow the example of the National Grid in cricket and sponsor the umpire/referee.



Mike Catt: talking terms with management consultants

The London office of McKinsey is run by Norman Sanson, a former international referee who made his name when he sent off two players in the 1977 match between Wales and Ireland.

The removal of Derek Lewis as the Director General of the Prison Service may come as a blessed relief to his administration staff. The former chief executive of Granada earned an unenviable reputation during his time at the leisure and television concern as a man who found it hard to delegate control.

The result was an avalanche of memos, backing up his every action, even down to minor secretarial matters. Granada insiders are still shaken by the sheer volume of paper work he left behind. Some have suggested, a little unkindly, that it has taken the two years that Mr Lewis has been at the Prison Service to clear the backlog. At least Sir John Learmont, who prepared yesterday's report, was not short of documentary evidence.

Robbed of his chance to become a finance director of an FTSE 100 stock when the Medeva/Fisons talks collapsed, Dennis Millard has taken the direct route and gone to Cookson. After 13 years with the Plate Glass Company of South Africa the Medeva finance director simply would not be denied his crack at the big time.

The City was in no doubt that Mr Millard would have taken the financial helm in

the combined group rather than his counterpart at Fisons. David Hankinson, the Fisons FD, is building an impressive track record of handsome payoffs. Since March 1992 he walked away with £350,000 from Lucas and an estimated £400,000 from Ranks Hovis McDougall. Now Fisons has been taken over he stands to make about £270,000 on his two year contract plus nearly £750,000 from share options.

مطابق الاول



# market report/shares

TAKING STOCK

## Market pauses for thought on a quiet trading day

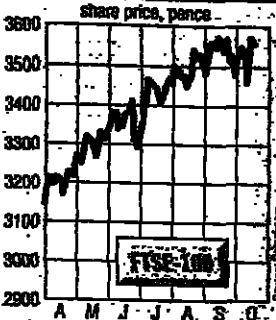
### MARKET REPORT

JOHN SHEPHERD

#### DATA BANK

FT-SE 100  
3557.3 -10.7  
FT-SE 250  
3939.0 -6.3  
FT-SE 350  
1771.3 -4.7  
SEAQ VOLUME  
498.2m shares,  
30,433 bargains  
Gilts Index  
92.93 -0.06

#### SHARE SPOTLIGHT



It was time yesterday to take stock of events, or rather the lack of them, that last week powered the leading share index to within a whisker of its all-time high.

The mood in dealing rooms was somewhat deflated after the giant bid that had been expected on Friday failed to materialise. Thoughts soon turned to the plethora of UK economic statistics to be unleashed this week, starting today with the public sector borrowing requirement for September, followed by average earnings, unemployment, and retail sales tomorrow.

Share prices drifted in negative territory throughout yesterday. The FT-SE 100 share index closed 10.7 points down, and the FT-SE 250 lost 6.3 to finish at 3,939.0. The gilt-edged market was also subdued, ahead of today's announcement of the timing for the next Treasury auction.

Trading volumes in equities were generally small-scale. The rumour mill, which had been in overdrive last week, was barely turning over. But the belief that a big takeover is in the wings still held some sway, helping to underpin some of the leading shares.

Gains among the leaders were contained to just a few pence. Thomson EMI was the only member of the top 100 club to record a double-digit advance, rising 21p to £15.27 on some hopes that its plans to de-merge will be superseded by a full-blown bid by Viacom or Disney. Cable & Wireless came close to double-digit territory, with a 9p advance to 426p on a rumour that the company was about to form a strategic alliance with Siemens of Germany.

The rumour, for once, may hold some truth, with an after-hours announcement from

Siemens that it tomorrow will announce an acquisition and strategic partnership with a leading UK telecommunications carrier. Analysts believe Siemens may well buy the customer equipment business, formerly known as Telephone Rentals, and part of C&W's Mercury Communications subsidiary.

Grand Met, which featured in several different rumours last week, remained in demand. More than 3.5 million were traded, and the price rose 3p to 457p, just 2p shy of the year's high.

The speculation that Grand Met may sell its IDV drinks business to Allied Domecq,

down 7p to 518p, was still doing the rounds. The main reason for Allied's dismal showing yesterday, however, probably had more to do with the disappointing results and a gloomy statement on prospects for the UK market in spirits from Highland Distilleries, off 12p to 379p.

There are some fears that Christmas could see a repeat of the price-ating battle between Allied, producer of Teacher's whisky, Guinness, maker of the market-leading Bell's, and Highland, which delivers a large part of its profits in the UK from its Famous Grouse brand. While Guinness, 3p firmer at 518p, him-

ed a couple of weeks ago that it was unlikely to start an all-out price war, it is almost certain to duplicate last winter's multi-buy offers.

Fears of a fresh outbreak of hostilities were spurred by Asda's slashing of prices on a range of non-prescription drugs. Lloyds Chemists, weak of late, suffered most from the backwash and fell 17p to 228p. None of the other leading drugs retailers said they would immediately follow suit - but on past record it would be churlish to rule out another round of price cuts.

Unilever, both a wholesaler and retailer of pharmaceuticals, lost 9p to 264p, and Boots shed 15.5p to 568p. Kingfisher, owner of Superdrug, dipped 8p to 502p, hardly the best endorsement the company might have expected on a day it announced that Sir John Banham, former director general of the CBI, would succeed Sir

Nigel Mobbs as chairman.

BCE, the computer games company quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, gained 1.5p to 21p amid further talk of stake-building. Almost 1.5 million were traded.

Encouraging prospects for the 'flu field in the North Sea lifted Enterprise Oil by 7p to 356p. Edinburgh Oil & Gas added 2p to 20.5p after taking stakes in Stirling and Albany, two onshore fields in the UK.

Close Brothers, the small merchant bank, finished 9p better at 318p on a 96 per cent take-up of its rights issue. NatWest Securities easily placed the rights rump of 730,000 shares at 307p each.

Among the fallers were Abitars - off 6p to 359p on the back of a bearish industry from NatWest - and BPS Industries, down 6p to 277p after BZW downgraded its recommendation from hold to sell.

□ Gas Carter, the Sunderland-based betting shop chain, slumped to yet another low, dropping 9p to 52p on a further warning about the effect of the Lottery on its business. The shares were floated five months ago at 80p. After a recent drop in pre-tax profits from £589,000 to £377,000 for the six months to June, the company yesterday warned that trading has continued to be disappointing. The number of betting shops and the average size of stakes fell throughout the summer, and win margins have also been poor.

□ While betting shops are suffering, casino operators are faring better. London Clubs, down as low as 264p in the last year, closed 3p up at 426p on news of a management contract to run the Beirut casino. The company will also take an unspecified minority holding in the casino complex, owned by Casino du Liban.

#### SHARE PRICE DATA

Prices are in sterling cent where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: ex R rights x B-dividend a United Securities Market a Suspended 7P Parity Paid per Nil Paid Shares. Source: Financial Times.

#### THE INDEPENDENT INDEX

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seag. Simply dial 0891 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

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#### MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES

Stock	Vol (m)	Share	Vol (m)	Share	Vol (m)	Share
BT Group	12,000	100p	BT Group	12,000	100p	100p
BT Group	12,000	100p	BT Group	12,000	100p	100p
BT Group	12,000	100p	BT Group	12,000	100p	100p
BT Group	12,000	100p	BT Group	12,000	100p	100p

#### FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR

Time	Index	Time	Index	Time	Index
Open	3568.5 down 1.5	11.00	3562.2 down 15.8	14.00	3552.8 down 15.2
09.00	3565.0 down 3.0	12.00	3551.8 down 16.2	15.00	3555.5 down 12.5
10.00	3557.9 down 10.1	13.00	3553.0 down 15.0	Close	3557.3 down 10.7

#### BANKS, MERCHANT

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### BANKS, RETAIL

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### BREWERIES

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### BUILDING MATERIALS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### CHEMICALS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### DISTRIBUTORS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### GAS DISTRIBUTION

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### HEALTH CARE

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### INSURANCE

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### INTERNATIONALS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### INDEX-LINKED

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### SHORTS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### MEDIUMS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### LONGS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### UNDATED

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### RETAILERS, FOOD

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### RETAILERS, GENERAL

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### PHARMACEUTICALS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### PRINTING & PAPER

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### PROPERTY

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### SPIRITS, WINES & CIGARS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### SUPPORT SERVICES

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### WATER

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### RIGHTS ISSUES

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### RECENT ISSUES

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### GOVERNMENT SECURITIES

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### RETAILERS, FOOD

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### RETAILERS, GENERAL

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p
TSB Bank	100p	Yorkshire Bank	100p

#### PHARMACEUTICALS

Bank of Scotland	100p	Barclays Bank	100p
HSBC Bank	100p	London City	100p
NatWest Bank	100p	Paragon Bank	100p



## unit trusts/data

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## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

STERLING		DOLLAR			D-MARK	
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.2794	15-17	34-31	1.0000		0.7940
UK				1.2698	4-7	0.9049
Germany	2.2447	15-11	15-11	1.4024	26-30	1.0530
France	7.8051	14-25	12-23	63-61	10-10	5.6867
Japan	155.18	25-27	25-27	101-99	100-102	117.71
Italy	168.15	25-27	25-27	101-99	144-144	100.00
SEU	1.2140	15-17	34-31	1.2621	4-7	0.9230
Belgium	465.03	25-27	25-27	1.2621	4-7	0.9230
Netherlands	2.2039	17-18	20-17	1.5014	25-26	1.0718
Norway	6.8718	15-16	17-16	1.5014	25-26	1.0718
Sweden	1.0776	16-17	34-31	1.5014	25-26	1.0718
Denmark	13.946	25-27	25-27	1.5014	25-26	1.0718
Spain	162.72	40-55	105-147	127-45	30-35	4.3276
Portugal	205.10	40-55	105-147	127-45	30-35	4.3276
Greece	13.946	25-27	25-27	1.5014	25-26	1.0718
Switzerland	1.8101	77-73	205-108	1.1500	37-37	0.8076
Australia	2.0003	10-18	39-41	0.7500	19-9	0.5101
Hong Kong	10.7231	30-28	42-28	7.7935	10-10	1.7888
India	16.7100	30-28	42-28	7.7935	10-10	1.7888
South Africa	2.3882	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Korea	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Thailand	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Philippines	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Malaysia	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Singapore	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Indonesia	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Brunei	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Myanmar	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Laos	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Cambodia	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
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North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
East Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
West Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
Central Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
North Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	10-10	0.5000
South Vietnam	2.0003	30-33	104-159	0.6000	1	

OTHER SPOT RATES		
Country	Unit	Rate
Canada	Canadian Dollar	0.70
France	French Franc	6.55
Germany	German Mark	3.36
Italy	Italian Lira	2036
Japan	Japanese Yen	360
Spain	Spanish Peseta	166.64
Sweden	Swedish Krona	4.66
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	2.00
U.K.	Pound Sterling	0.50

[illegible]

## TOURIST RATES

A Share	B Share	C Share	D Share
Australia (Dollars)	2,800	France (Francs)	7,500
Austria (Schillings)	16,000	Germany (Marks)	2,175
Belgium (Francs)	43,500	Greece (Drachmas)	368,000
Canada	2,000	Hong Kong (Dollars)	11,870
Cypriot Pounds	0.700	India (Rupees)	3,920
Denmark (Kroner)	8,400	Indonesia (Rupiah)	247,400
Finland (Markka)	4,950	Italy (Lira)	158,600
France (Francs)	7,500	Japan (Yen)	0.425
		Mexico (Pesos)	7607,000
		Netherlands (Gulden)	1,540
		New Zealand (Dollars)	2,325
		Norway (Kroner)	0.930
		Portugal (Escudos)	137,000
		Spain (Pesetas)	16,000
		Switzerland (Francs)	1,740
		Turkey (Lira)	7607,000
		U.S. Dollars	1,540

## INTEREST RATES

UK	Germany	US	Japan	
Bare	Discount	Prime	Discount	0.50%
France	Lombard	Discount	Belgian	
Intervention	Canada	Fed Funds	Discount	3.50%
Italy	Prime	Spain	Central	4.05%
Discount	Discount	10-Day Repo	Switzerland	
Netherlands	Discount	Sweden	Discount	2.00%
Belgium	Discount	Repo (Avg)	Lombard	4.00%

## BOND YIELDS

Country	5yr	yield %	10yr	yield %	Country	5yr	yield %	10yr	yield %
UK	8%	7.50	8½%	8.12	Netherlands	9%	5.58	7½%	6.82
US	9½%	5.83	5½%	5.99	Spain	12½%	10.49	10½%	10.85
Japan	8½%	1.41	4½%	2.72	Italy	10½%	11.46	10½%	11.98
Australia	7%	7.83	7½%	8.31	Belgium	10½%	9.04	6½%	7.08
Germany	6½%	5.39	6½%	5.54	Sweden	11½%	9.09	9%	9.43
France	7%	6.90	7½%	7.64	ECU Dtl	9½%	6.97	7½%	6.77

Source: *Financial Times* 10/1/88

## MONEY MARKET RATES

	O'Night	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Interbank	2 3/4	3 1/4	4 1/4	5 1/4	6 1/4	7 1/4
Swedish C/D's	3 1/4	4 1/4	5 1/4	6 1/4	7 1/4	8 1/4
Local Authority Depos	3 1/4	4 1/4	5 1/4	6 1/4	7 1/4	8 1/4
Discount Market Depos	3 1/4	4 1/4	5 1/4	6 1/4	7 1/4	8 1/4
Treasury Bills (90 day)	3 1/4	4 1/4	5 1/4	6 1/4	7 1/4	8 1/4
Dollar C/D's	3 1/4	4 1/4	5 1/4	6 1/4	7 1/4	8 1/4
ECM (1 Year) Den	3 1/4	4 1/4	5 1/4	6 1/4	7 1/4	8 1/4

**LIFE FINANCIAL FUTURES**

Contract			Settlement price	High/Low for day	EstCosts traded	Open interest	
Lowry Oil	Dec 95		105.11	105.35	105.47	30653	30606
Barren River	Dec 95		92.09	92.09	92.09	88908	102014
LA/Brent	Dec 95		121.48	121.54	121.24	3172	0
Indian Refind	Dec 95		101.90	102.74	102.72	21907	42889
3M Sinter	Dec 95		93.26	93.26	93.24	7133	59737
			93.26	93.26	93.25	11894	10085
3M Gas 95	Dec 95		94.26			0	110
3M Gas/95	Dec 95		95.02	95.03	95.99	59876	149591
	Mar 96		95.14	95.14	95.99	12887	150114
ECU	Dec 95		94.29	94.29	94.29	1174	0
	Mar 96		94.27	94.83	94.62	412	5167
Esso Ref	Dec 95		97.57	97.70	97.60	1109	20296
ESB-120	Dec 95		3678.00	3692.0	3678.0	8494	94413
ESB-120	Dec 95		3678.00			0	3539
Fluore	Dec 95		65.47	65.58	65.63	1485	35501

### LIFE FT-SE INDEX OPTION

Settlement price	3185.5	clearing offer price		Call/Put	
Series	3500	3830	3600	3650	Total/wks
October	72 / 4	33 / 1A	7 / 4A	1 / 93	
November	109 / 31	75 / 48	47 / 72	25 / 103	--
December	135 / 60	108 / 68	74 / 90	52 / 119	--
January	162 / 84	- / -	104 / 107	- / -	--

## COMMODITIES

Shrimps	Crabs	3 milbs	Volume	L/L Shrimp	Crab	PM Fish Acc	
Al Hay	1815-18	1890-91	13000	52,680	2		
Al Hay	1405-14	1400-86	12000	48,680	2	Platform	412.50 261.76
Daggar A	7705-40	7700-40	12000	176,325	2	Net	137.67 87.47
Al Hay	6205-04	6405-04	12750	176,325	2	Silver spot	367.00 344.31
Al Hay	7705-40	7675-80	12678	58,070	1	Gold Crab	5.65 2.47
Al Hay	6205-10	6205-08	7676	14,175	2		
7th	6205-10	6505-09	10000	14,175	2	Polina	
Statement continues on page 58							
Statement continues on page 58		68	8100	3400	Stock volume & change in volume at Al Hay 10 Dec		
Statement continues on page 58		7,075	1,425	100,000			
Cocon	Coffee	Potatoes	Barley				
L/O Shrimp	L/O Shrimp	L/O Shrimp	L/O Shrimp	L/O Shrimp			
Dec 808	Jan 2418	Jan 18630	Jan 117,40				
Mar 985	Jan 2305	Mar 230,00	Jan 109,65				
Mar 851	Mar 7778	Mar 270,00	Mar 119,65				
Mar 536	Mar 7778	Mar 110	Mar 29				
White Sugar	Raw Sugar	Freight	Wheat				
L/O Shrimp	L/O Coffee	L/O 8100	L/O Shrimp				
Dec 359,80	Jan 13,26	Oct 18,91	Jan 116,88				
Mar 851	Mar 1,35	Mar 1800	Jan 118,25				
Mar 320,80	Mar 1,35	Mar 1772	Mar 119,65				
Mar 7,207	Mar 1,35	Oct 1771	Mar 118,25				
Statement continues on page 58							
Cocon	Coffee	Potatoes	Barley				
L/O Shrimp	L/O Shrimp	L/O Shrimp	L/O Shrimp	L/O Shrimp			
Dec 808	Jan 2418	Jan 18630	Jan 117,40				
Mar 985	Jan 23						

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

[illegible]

## LARGEST 100 INSURANCE FUNDS

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	2959	2960	2961	2962	2963	2964	2965	2966	2967	2968	2969	2970	2971	2972	2973	2974	2975	2976	2977	2978	2979	2980	2981	2982	2983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## UNIT TRUSTS GUIDE

d	ex dividend
e	exit charge applies
	when units are sold
buy	formerly 'offer'
sell	formerly 'bid'
x	Non SIB recognised fund











# Wetherall's empirical progress to be tested

On a scorching afternoon, the coach carrying the Leeds United team edged through the masses besieging Old Trafford. A seasoned international turned to David Wetherall and said: "Welcome to the real world."

While the notion of football as the real world would make a fascinating thesis in one of the "ologies", the words were carefully chosen. Wetherall, who sat out the match as a substitute, was then embarking on his last year as a chemistry undergraduate at Sheffield University. Not so much an unreal world, more a different planet.

Three years on, and with a BSc (Hons) degree to his name, the 24-year-old six-footer has made the transition from lab coat to first-team shirt so successfully that he is Leeds' first-choice centre-back. Tonight, in the first leg of a Uefa Cup tie against PSV Eindhoven, he faces his sternest examination.

The Dutch club's Brazilian prodigy, Ronaldo, will be missing because of injury. Even so, Wetherall might have wished for an easier evening after Saturday's chastening experience against Messrs Bergkamp and Wright. The technique of players like Wim Jonk and Jan Wouters should ensure that the game is an education for the Leeds defence.

Given the way he balanced a desire to pursue a sporting career with the wish for a qualification, it seems odd that Wetherall's approach is now characterised as uncompromising. He chose a course in his

**Phil Shaw meets the science graduate whose footballing education at Leeds United undergoes a stiff examination by Dutch masters PSV Eindhoven tonight**

home city so that he could live with his parents and play for Sheffield Wednesday's reserves. When he left for Leeds, in a £275,000 package with Jon Newsome, the close proximity was part of the attraction.

For 12 months, his first at Elland Road and last as a student, Wetherall lived a double life. His debut, four days after the visit to Manchester United, was an extraordinary initiation.

There he was, a part-timer, playing for the champions-to-be against the reigning champions, Arsenal.

"With 20 minutes to go, we were 2-1 down and I was on the touch-line ready to go on," Wetherall recalled. "Then Lee Chapman scored and the gaffer (Howard Wilkinson) told me to sit down again. But he threw me on for the last two minutes. I always tell people that made the difference in winning the title!"

Wetherall initially felt he was "on the outside looking in" at Leeds. His conscience nagged him, especially when the squad toured the city in an open-top bus with the trophy. "I had an exam that week, so I could

**A lot of people change their personalities when they cross the line, and I've got to do the same'**

tween South and West Yorkshire.

"The last reserve game of my first season here coincided with my finals. I finished at five o'clock and belted over here, got changed and went straight out on the pitch. I was trying to concentrate when I suddenly thought: 'Damn - I answered question seven wrongly!'"

Late in the "hangover" season which followed the championship, he began playing regularly in the Premiership.

The strides made since then were recognised last spring, when Wilkinson named him as his player of the year.

Wetherall has learned, according to his manager, "when to push up, when to step back and when to put a foot in". In the sense that he is more effective imposing himself between opponents and goal than in bringing the ball out, he is an old-fashioned stopper. His aerial ability also makes him a threat at set-pieces.

Organising the defence is an aspect where he admits there is room for improvement. "I'm naturally quiet, but that's no excuse," he said. "A lot of people change their personalities when they cross the line, and I've got to do the same."

Roy Adams sets the standard which he expects, while Alan Shearer has been "by far" his most troublesome opponent. Europe presents a different test. The main threat for Monaco, Leeds' first-round foe, was posed by Ronaldo's compatriot, Sonny Anderson. Quick and clever as he was, Wetherall found the Continental tempo more problematic.

"They were patient in their build-up, deceptively slow at times, waiting for the moment to deliver. Almost before you knew it, the ball was whipped in. English teams tend to get it forward much more quickly."



Graduating with honours: David Wetherall, Leeds' defensive linchpin, went from student to championship winner in his first year at Elland Road. Photograph: Allsport

## Cottee's strike rebounds on Dons

**MIKE ROWBOTTOM**  
Wimbledon 0  
West Ham United 1

A goal involving swift movement of the ball and support in numbers won an intensely competitive London derby at Selhurst Park. Wimbledon, in short, were out-Wimbledoned and had Tony Cottee, the scorer, and Iain Dowie reacted better in the closing minutes the margin could have been embarrassing.

Wimbledon, who had conceded 17 goals in their previous five games, began with a new defensive formation, employing three centre-backs. It looked effective enough for 18 minutes, until a perceptively angled through ball from Michael Hughes created an opportunity for Robbie Slater to run in on the Wimbledon keeper.

The ball appeared to have carried a little beyond the reach of the ginger-haired Australian, but his stretching challenge was enough to send it looping up off Heald's legs and Tony Cottee, following up, drove in his first Premiership goal of the season.

Suitably encouraged, West Ham should have added a second goal just after the half hour when John Moncur's swift break and another cross from Hughes - back in his second loan period from Strasbourg - presented Iain Dowie with a clear chance from six yards out. But his downward header was blocked by Heald's reflex save.

Wimbledon's immediate response - straight out of the Plough Lane hall of infamy - was a clattering foul by Kenny Cunningham on his opposite full-back, Julian Dicks, back from suspension and facing an FA charge of disrepute on Thursday. You could see a metaphorical key being put into Dicks's back - but, wisely, he refused to be wound up.

Wimbledon's response after the break was more positive and within five minutes they nearly had a reward when Robbie Earle hooked a shot against the bar after Ludek Miklosko, under extreme pressure, had failed to deal with a corner.

Wimbledon 0-5-2: Heald; McKelvie; Tom (Fitzgerald); Zia, Peter (Slater), Paul (Earle), Leighton (Slater), Iain Dowie, Cunningham, Goodwin, Hobson.

West Ham United 1-0-0: Dowie; Potts, Martin, Repper, Dicks, Slater, Bishop, Moncur, Hughes, Cottee, Dowie, Substitutes not used: Howard, Hinchey, Smith, Taylor, Wright.

Referee: D. Gallagher (Barnbury).

## European dreams threatened by home discomforts

There is an orthodoxy about Europe that dictates you win ties at home and make sure you do not lose them on your travels. The first round of the Uefa Cup rather confounded that.

Both Leeds and Liverpool had their opponents buried, if not dead, before they got them home while Manchester United did what was expected in Russia and then succumbed on away goals to Rotor Volgograd. It is a deviation from the trend that is soothing nerves around an Elland Road preparing to play host to PSV Eindhoven in the second round tonight.

So far this season, good news has arrived in West Yorkshire mainly via the television as Leeds, at home, have resembled takeover owners than defenders of a fortress. Even Tony Yeboah has prospered more away from Elland Road, scoring nine of his 11 goals.

The 3-0 defeat by Arsenal on Saturday hardly helped as Leeds, without the injured Gary McAllister or an explosive intervention from Yeboah, looked bereft of ideas. It was not the best preparation for PSV, who are second behind Ajax in the Dutch League and whose

tactical nous has been fortified by the appointment of the former Netherlands coach, Dick Advocaat.

Much could depend on the fitness of McAllister, who sustained an ankle injury playing for Scotland last week. "He is optimistic," Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said, "but then he always is." The decision whether he plays may become a battle between the player's eagerness and the medical staff's misgivings.

In Leeds's favour, there seems no young dilemma over PSV's young striker, Ronaldo, who

**Guy Hodgson previews a difficult night in Europe for the home teams**

injured a knee playing for Brazil against Uruguay last week and, as well as missing out tonight, is doubtful for the second leg in a fortnight's time. "Losing him," Arsenal's Dutch international winger, Glenn Helder, said, "is like Leeds losing Yeboah."

Liverpool will not have their expensive striker, Stan Collymore, in their team, either,

against Brondby in Denmark, but that will be by choice as Ian Rush is preferred as the foil to Robbie Fowler.

This is an abandonment of the one-striker policy adopted in the 2-1 success over Vladikavkaz in Russia in the first round, although Roy Evans cannot be described as acting through ignorance, as his reserve goalkeeper, Michael Stensgaard, lived 15 minutes from Brondby's stadium before moving to Anfield last year.

"There isn't really one danger man," the 21-year-old Dane

said, "it's the whole team. They work hard for each other and, you never know in a cup game, the performance can be 200 per cent better than normal, especially against a club as big as Liverpool."

Nottingham Forest, the spiritual home of the prototype, come face to face with the man described as the "French Brian Clough" tonight when they travel to France to meet the Auxerre coach, Guy Roux. Frank Clark, Clough's successor at the City Ground, admits: "We know they are going to make it very tough for us, but,

having been out of Europe for 11 years, this club is hungry for success on the continent again."

Not as famished as Raith Rovers, whose first European campaign has brought them Bayern Munich, Jürgen Klinsmann and all, in the second round at Hibernian's Easter Road. They will be urged to provide one thing by their manager, Jimmy Nicholl: "Make sure we're still in the tie by the time the second leg comes around."

It will be a thought echoing in a few minds tonight.

## Ryan first to yield to Andrew's advances

**Rugby Union**  
STEVE BAILE

Rob Andrew finally got one of his men yesterday when he signed the captain of his old club to play for his new club. Dean Ryan, three times an England back-row forward, is to leave the First Division by joining Newcastle from Waspas as Andrew's assistant director of rugby.

Ryan's incentive is a three-year deal worth around £150,000 plus other perks including housing, and he will start playing for the Second Division club as soon as possible. Under current regulations this would be February, but the Rugby Football Union is considering

abandoning its 120-day qualification for transferred players, despite the opposition expressed yesterday by Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary.

"Movement of players during this period of change needs to be possibly more restrictive," Hallett said. "What worries me is the polarisation of players to one or two clubs and the effect it would have on the competitive edge of the game if all are amassed at one club or another."

Newcastle's slide into the relegation area has not been abated by Sir John Hall's cash injection, and his rugby development director has found it hard being "the Kevin Keegan of rugby" as well as England stand-off when players have

been rejecting his advances.

Ryan's acceptance therefore represents a critical breakthrough, not least for his propaganda effect on other prospective recruits. The England wings Rory and Tony Underwood, who unlike Ryan have considerable North-eastern connections, are on Andrew's shopping list and likely to make their decision this week after talking further to both Newcastle and Leicester.

"The Newcastle squad clearly needs strengthening, because it's not powerful enough for the First Division and everybody can see the current team is struggling in the Second," Andrew said yesterday. "Newcastle need class and experience

now, and I hope Dean and I can be the first two to supply some of that quality."

The defection of their captain of three years is a body-blow to Waspas, coming on top of Andrew's but with Ryan, a 29-year-old former corporal in the Royal Engineers who has latterly been in banking, wanting to get involved in coaching as well as the new professionalism, the call of the North was irresistible.

"My contract is for three years and the terms are attractive enough for me to move home, family and job," Ryan said yesterday. "But that's not the sole reason. I want to be actively involved beyond my playing days, though I'll continue playing for as long as I can. I'm

playing as well as when I was capped."

As far as the exasperated Waspas are concerned, Ryan's departure on top of that of Andrew will in effect force them to join Newcastle in the market-place. "We have no reason now not to go on the attack ourselves," Rob Smith, the club coach, said yesterday. "I just hope other clubs don't get upset when we come looking for their players but we've been left defenceless by the RFU regulations."

Laurie Mains announced yesterday that he would retire as the New Zealand coach after the All Blacks' forthcoming tour of France, when he intends making public his opposition to French nuclear testing in the Pacific.

## Edwards still in doubt for semi-final

**Rugby League**

The England captain, Sham Edwards, was described as responding to treatment in a private clinic for the knee infection that has laid him low, but he remains doubtful for the World Cup semi-final against Wales at Old Trafford on Saturday, writes Dave Hadfield.

Gary Connolly, the Wigan centre who has been out with pneumonia, yesterday completed a training session and will be considered for the semi-final. The Welsh have serious injury problems of their own. John Devereux has a deep laceration of the knee and is rated as no better than 50-50, while Neil Cowie is thought to have strained ligaments and has had his ankle immobilised as a precaution. Alan Bateman is to see a dental surgeon over damage caused by a blow to his mouth.

Featherstone Rovers have signed Fiji's World Cup second-round forward Ilesia Toga on a one-year contract. And three of his Fiji team-mates - full-back Waisale Sovata, prop Malsikai Yasa Kamaivatu and winger Josiah Dakolaga - have joined Sheffield.

## Cooks beat the drum at Post Office Road

**DAVE HADFIELD**

The United States discovered in Featherstone last night that, for an emerging rugby league nation, size is not everything when they lost 64-6 to the Cook Islands.

It was small wonder, perhaps, that the Cook Islands should have felt at home at Post Office Road, the 16,000 population of the village matching just about perfectly that of the whole of their archipelago.

They brought the flavour and especially the sounds of those islands to Featherstone in the opening match of the Emerging Nations' World Cup: their team, substitutes and officials singing their national anthem in sublime 20-part harmony and the players performing the most complicated war dance of either this or the Senior World Cup competition so far.

Featherstone also provided drummers to beat out the island's distinctive tattoos every time they scored. It was always likely that the drummers would be kept busy, as the Cooks, geographically obscure as they might be, can claim a health crop of genuine rugby league players with experience in New

Zealand and beyond. The drums first beat out their message in the first minute and continued to do so at regular intervals, as players like Ali Davys, Craig Bowen, Denovau Johnson and Methi Novao showed their pedigree.

The United States tried to counter the Cooks' massed choir with their left-winger Britton Coffman's stirring rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner." It was all a little like being at some large, open-air karaoke festival. What they lacked in technique and complex harmony, they did their utmost to make up for in sheer courage. In the former Marine, Jeff Preston, they had one performer of conspicuous gallantry, and it was fitting that he was their lone try-scorer.

By the end, a crowd considerably bigger than Featherstone's average this season was urging the Americans on for a second but, as they know better than most, some days it is the little guys' turn.

In the other Group One match, also at Featherstone, Scotland scored 20 points without reply in the second half to beat Russia 34-9 while, in Group Two at Rochdale, Ireland beat Moldova 48-26.

## Wales brace themselves for the giants of Fiji

**ROBERT COLE**

Welsh forwards can expect to meet both Mohammed and the mountain when the Fijians pack down on their seven-match tour, which opens against Wales A at Bridgend on Saturday.

On the one side of the tourists' scrum will be the skipper, Joel Veitayaki, weighing in at 20st 6lbs, while propping up

the tight head side will be the even bigger Villame Cavubati, who tips the scales at 22st 4lbs.

It means that any front row that Wales can muster for the international on 11 November will be conceding at least 10 stones once the Fijians have thrown a 16st hooker into the equation.

Wales ran headlong into Veitayaki on last year's tour of the South Seas. The King Country prop scored his only

try in a 23-8 defeat in Suva, but reckons this year's team "is far, far better because new, young players have come in."

Veitayaki is one of 13 players who ply their rugby trade in either New Zealand or Australia who are in the tour party. A change in the constitution of the Fijian rugby union opened up the way for overseas based players to represent their country.

It means the Welsh can expect

a far tougher time than 16 months ago, especially as the Fijians arrive having recently won the South Pacific Championship for the first time since 1989.

Traditional Fijian flair is bound to keep the defences of the top five clubs from last season, Wales A and Wales on the loose, while it promises to be a heavyweight battle up front.

Fiji's rugby union (22st 100lbs unless stated); 24 October Wales A (Bridgend), 25 October North, 28 October Cardiff, 1

November Taroa; 4 November Port Moresby; 7 November Lianan; 10 November Wales (A.O.) (Cardiff Arms Park).

Junior Paramore, a member of the Western Samoan rugby union team, announced yesterday that he is switching to rugby by league to play for the Auckland-based Hunter Valley Mariners in the new Australasian Super League to start next year.

He becomes the sixth Western Samoan player to switch to league since the World Cup.

### SPORTING DIGEST

#### American football

##### AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Division	W	L	PF	PA
AFC East	3	0	138	96
AFC Central	4	2	222	177
AFC West	4	2	175	110
AFC South	5	0	89	180
AFC North	5	0	103	204

##### NFL

Division	W	L	PF	PA
AFC East	3	0	124	107
AFC Central	3	0	138	140
AFC West	2	0	136	145
AFC South	2	0	105	119
AFC North	5	0	100	147

##### WESTERN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Division	W	L	PF	PA
AFC East	3	0	203	153
AFC Central	3	0	244	173
AFC West	3	0	114	180
AFC South	2	0	115	188
AFC North	5	0	153	183

##### NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Division	W	L	PF	PA
AFC East	3	0	178	121
AFC Central	3	0	183	79
AFC West	3	0	134	118
AFC South	2	0	113	127
AFC North	5	0	109	140

#### Athletics

Edmund Martin sprinted away from Mexico's Carlos Bautista to win Sunday's Chicago Marathon. Martin was forced to make an unscheduled stop after 17 miles of the race, which he finished his nearly 30 seconds, but he battled his way back and caught up with the leaders of 22 miles, coming home in 2hr 11min 18sec, three seconds clear of Bautista at the head of an 11,000-strong field.

#### Baseball

**MAJOR LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS** American League Championship Series: Cleveland 2, Seattle 2 (Cleveland lead best-of-seven series 3-2).

#### Baseball

**7-UP TROPHY** South post: Harrel Rogers 52, Wally Back 102.

#### Baseball

**MAJOR LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS** American League Championship Series: Cleveland 2, Seattle 2 (Cleveland lead best-of-seven series 3-2).

#### Cricket

Dominic Cork was yesterday named the Wisden and Macaulay Cricketer of the Year, 68 hours before leaving for England's winter tour of South Africa.

#### Golf

Golf's governing bodies are to introduce a one-stroke penalty rule in an attempt to combat slow play. The words "slow play" are to appear in the rulebook for the first time from 1 January. Among the other changes coming into effect next year are ones that permit committees to make local rules to prohibit play from an area, to allow a player to play a ball from a stance, not the ball, is effected by casual water; ground under repair or casual damage to the course.

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## SPORT

**LINFORD CHRISTIE'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY**  
Exclusive extracts begin in Saturday's magazine

# Eubank announces retirement as pressure builds up

**Boxing**  
JAMES REED

Chris Eubank yesterday announced his retirement from boxing, a decision that is not a surprise, though it remains to be seen if he will quit for good.

Eubank, 29, has fought 47 times and suffered his first defeat in March of this year when he lost his World Boxing Organisation

super middleweight title to Steve Collins and last month he lost for the second time when Collins once again beat him. On both occasions Eubank was devastated by the defeat.

"There is life outside the ring and I feel the pressure is now off me. I've been boxing since I was 16 and it's a hard life. I won't be coming back," Eubank promised yesterday. He denied that the death of the

Scottish bantamweight, James Murray, influenced his decision. Eubank will now concentrate on a sports and fashion business he has set up with an associate, Rory McCarthy, called "Show Offs". It is an appropriate name for the Brighton boxer who has spoken of quitting the ring since he first won the WBO middleweight title from Nigel Benn in November, 1990.

Since his defeat and what

could be his final fight last month against Collins, Eubank has eked out an ascetic existence in Hove. Even at the opening of his new wine bar, Hyde's, the enigmatic boxer was amazingly quiet and left before the opening night party was in full swing.

During the last few weeks there has been speculation about his intentions. His trainer Ronnie Davies had suggested that Eubank would move up

to light-heavyweight. It is still an option. "We've had some marvellous times and I'm obviously sad but if he wants to retire and stay retired I will back his decision all the way," said Davies, who often despaired at his fighter's antics.

Eubank's first five fights were in Atlantic City but in 1988 he returned to England and shortly after joined Barry Hearn. They remained together until

August of this year when Eubank left, and his last fight against Collins was for Frank Warren. "It was always going to be the end of an era, it had to come and Eubank's always made it quite clear that he's a businessman who boxes," said Hearn.

"Eubank's called boxing a mug's game for years and perhaps from a timing point of view with the tragedy of James Murray it is an understandable de-

cision," added Hearn, who claimed Eubank is also the highest paid British fighter of all time. Before Eubank met Collins, there was speculation about there was speculation about multi-million pound fights against his former rival, Nigel Benn, and the current sensation of American boxing, Roy Jones, but since losing to Collins both those lucrative avenues dried up.

"Eubank is no good to me because he has now lost twice,"

said Jones recently. Benn has never been keen to meet Eubank for a third time, even though he lost the first encounter and drew their second fight when they met in front of 42,000 people at Old Trafford in October, 1993.

"It is a dirty business and boxers should be in control of their own destiny," said Eubank at last year's inaugural Professional Boxers Association dinner.

## Desolate Graf talks of ordeal

**Tennis**

JOHN ROBERTS  
reports from Brighton

Steffi Graf is here, seeking refuge from what she describes as "the unhappiest time of my life" the only way she knows how: by playing tennis. Whether the Wimbledon champion returns to Britain in the future depends on the state of a chronic back injury and her ability to deal with the strain of a German tax investigation into her earnings, which has led to the imprisonment of her father.

During a break from preparations to compete in the Brighton International women's tournament tomorrow, the 26-year-old Graf explained what it has been like for her to be at the centre of controversy. "You just can't get away from it," she said. "You sit in the car with the radio on. There's news every five minutes, and you are always in it. You turn on the TV, and it's just there constantly. There's a chat show on, and they're discussing whether you should be sent to jail or not. There's no way of escaping it."

There is one way, but Graf has not been fit enough to compete on the WTA Tour since defeating Monica Seles in the final of the United States Open almost six weeks ago. "Being here is like a little holiday for me right now," she said. "I'm happy to get away. Tennis right now gives me the break of not having constantly to talk to lawyers. Tennis is what I'm living for right now, nothing else."

Asked if she had considered leaving the sport in order to take herself out of the public eye, she said: "How am I supposed to drop out of the public eye? I didn't give any statements. I didn't do anything which would put me in the public eye more than any other time in my life."

One consequence of the tax investigation was the loss yesterday of Graf's \$500,000 Opel sponsorship. The German car company said: "We do not question her integrity. It's problems with her management."

Graf arrived in England on Sunday evening, ending a week of speculation that injury would cause her to miss the Brighton event for the third year consecutively. Her first appointment yesterday at Blatchington Mill School, Hove, answering questions about her tennis life from pupils, some of whom will be ball-girls at the tournament.

"It's been so crazy at home," she said. "I heard from other people that apparently I'd cancelled the tournament, but it was someone just starting to spread rumours around. I've not had the greatest preparation, but I never felt I wasn't going to play here."

"I didn't touch a racket for two and a half weeks after the US Open. When I did start back, I did a lot of conditioning. For the first time in a long time I was able to lift a lot of weights. I have a lot more strength all over and feel fitter than I have done for a long time. Before that I couldn't even do the gym exercises for a long time



Troubled daughter: Steffi Graf answers questions at a Brighton school yesterday Photograph: Ross Kinnaid/Allophoto

because my back was hurting. The last few days I've been able to run like I haven't been able to run for years."

It would appear that periods of rest after the more demanding tournaments will become the norm for however long Graf decides to continue her career. "Since Houston, in April, when I took some time off, I really haven't had much time off.

My life has been so busy I really couldn't concentrate the way I wanted to do."

Had she experienced as much hassle around her home in Germany as she did outside her New York apartment during the US Open? "It hasn't been too bad for me - even if they tried to catch up on me they didn't stand a chance."

The organisers of the

Brighton tournament are enormously relieved that Graf is in town. It is the 18th and last occasion the event will take place, having been squeezed out of the calendar by lack of sponsorship and dwindling interest. Graf has won the title six times, starting in 1986.

Britain's only winner was Sue Barker, in 1981. Jo Durie was the runner-up to Chris Evert in

1983 after defeating Pam Shriver in the semi-finals. The only home players in the draw this week are Clare Wood, from Sussex, who has been given a wild card, and Sam Smith, from Essex, who fought through the qualifying tournament, a commendable effort after being out of the game for three years while studying for a degree in history.

## King of grand entrances exits unlamented

Ken Jones assesses the boxing career of a flamboyant but flawed exhibitionist

In the process of amassing a considerable fortune from boxing Chris Eubank and his promoter, Barry Hearn, rejected totally the idea of going in with Mike McCallum, who then held a version of the middleweight championship. "What would McCallum bring?" Hearn sort-

ed. The answer was danger. While Eubank showed plenty of courage in hard contests against Nigel Benn and the ill-fated Michael Watson, he was never likely to run unnecessary risks with titles put out by the World Boxing Organisation. Eubank, who announced his retirement from the ring yesterday, had but one self-confessed aim: to manipulate the sport he declared to be beneath his contempt.

So many past boxing champions have ended their days penniless that nobody, not even the fellow professionals who resented his attitude, could deny Eubank the riches from a career shaped around ludicrous posturing, extravagant entrances and the many mismatches on a record that shows just two defeats.

With the eager co-operation of ITV, who projected the first phase of his championship career, Eubank gained a reputation out of all proportion to his ability. "I like to think I set standards for others," he said yesterday.

If Eubank was referring to the hyperbole that served to polarise public opinion to the point where millions of viewers (his fights achieved record figures) switched on simply to see him defeated, there isn't an argument. Stunt followed stunt. He arrived by crane, once astride a motor cycle. Dress and stylised speech established him as an eccentric. Unmitigated gall never failed him.

Eubank the fighter is a different matter. Curiously for one so determined to grow rich from the sport, he took liberties in preparation that often left him well overweight only a few days

before championship contests, some of which were not worthy of the name. A former title-holder said of Eubank, before his recent failure to regain the WBO super-middleweight title from Steve Collins, "I did more work in a day than he does in a week."

Never far from controversy, Eubank gained a number of decisions from WBO officials that raised eyebrows at ringside. It is impossible to know how good a fighter Eubank might have become, because he never committed himself fully, the posturing unquestionably a device to conceal serious limitations in stamina.

Eubank was seen at his best when taking the WBO middleweight title from Benn, stopping him after nine rounds, and in the two contests against Watson. Watson was ahead in the second when Eubank climbed from the floor to score a knock-out that had tragic consequences.

There is no way of knowing these things but it is hard to imagine that Eubank would have attained even domestic championship status had his career coincided with those of Alan Minter, who held the undisputed world middleweight championship, or Kevin Finnegan and Tony Sibson, who both went in with Marvin Hagler.

Interestingly, however, Eubank will probably be remembered for having a higher profile than any of them. A man for the time, he rode the television bandwagon for all he was worth and earned more than any British fighter outside the heavyweight division.

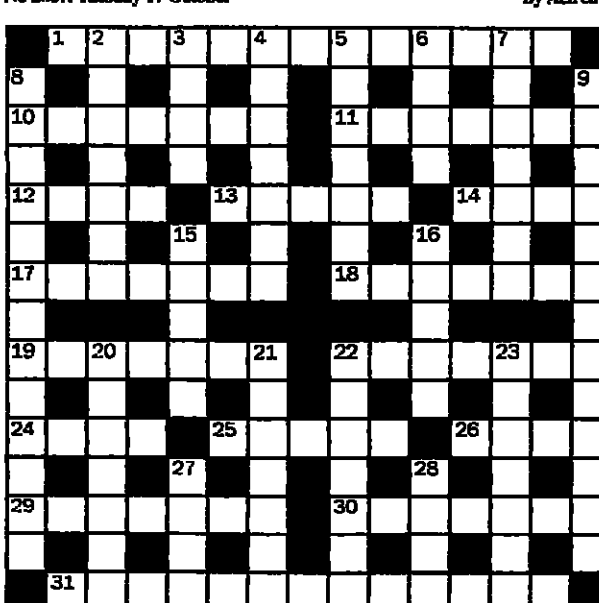
Despite the attention he attracted, Eubank could not be considered a great champion, and the arrogant worst of him in the ring, especially the taunting of humbled opponents, has been taken up by the new star, Naseem Hamed. If that was setting standards, Eubank's retirement is no cause for regret.

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 2807, Tuesday 17 October

By Aelred

Monday's Solution



DISPATCH MANNER  
E T I V N C E I  
MOREOVER MATURE  
U I C W N R S  
REFLECTS STROLL  
E T H C H T I  
G T V D P A  
S I O R V E G C  
TONIC WATER  
A N T G T O G R  
GLOBAL COMPLETE  
G T V D P A  
ELIGHT CAMOETIS  
R M A N S N A  
SIENNA EDGEHILL

In Saturday's prize puzzle 21 across should have read "Jumper originally available in fine lambwood, extremely attractive (4)". Our apologies.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Illuminating bit of soccer? (8,5)
  - 10 Copious untruths written about artist? (7)
  - 11 Biographer notes personal hygiene problem on dashing person? (7)
  - 12 Name a place for building in report? (4)
  - 13 Right time to get into handyman's work to show effect thereof? (5)
  - 14 Compete to protect new plant? (4)
  - 17 A deterioration is concerning Latin 6 dn (7)
  - 18 Subsequently returning to hold Channel Islands performance? (7)
  - 19 Range of company found by MP on a ship? (7)
  - 22 Turn to stream to find a large animal? (7)

- 24 Making shoe go round this? (4)
  - 25 Line-up essential for snooker player we hear (5)
  - 26 Sign of people getting old prematurely? (4)
  - 29 What you have to pay to kennel dog just now? (7)
  - 30 Try to secure deal to produce profit from drinks (7)
  - 31 Overtime payment abolished? (3,3,7)
- DOWN**
- 2 Going round and round piece in exam (7)
  - 3 Allowance made for packing weight of fodder plant (4)
  - 4 Descriptive of unbreakable record which could make team ill (3-4)
  - 5 Make high-ball and rest lazily of course? (7)
  - 6 Recess for leaders in all

- 7 party sessions evidently (4)
- 8 Get along with English team splitting the expense (2-5)
- 8 Current charge if excessive could produce it? (8,5)
- 9 A positive outcome of boring lesson? (5,13)
- 15 Some mountainous peaks, say (5)
- 16 Mark's going to Spain in panic (5)
- 20 One abandoned in failure of justice? It's a nasty blow (7)
- 21 Deliberately destroy coal carrier? (7)
- 22 Complain good lumber's being wasted? (7)
- 23 Liberal university doctor has a game? It's a pain? (7)
- 27 Great master has say essentially (4)
- 28 Horrid creatures showing reverse of academician's skills (4)

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## Illingworth shoulders England's burden

**Cricket**

Just in case anyone was in the slightest doubt, Ray Illingworth has spelled out where the power will lie on England's tour of South Africa this winter. With him.

The England tour party leaves tomorrow and, as chairman of selectors and tour manager, Illingworth has made it clear that he will use his unprecedented powers throughout a daunting programme that starts with a five-Test series, continues with seven one-day internationals against South Africa and winds up with a World Cup campaign in India and Pakistan.

"I can't play for the players but I'm sure I'm going to be judged on what happens this winter," Illingworth said. "I've been involved in the game a long time and I back my knowledge. Maybe I've given way on

selection matters once or twice when I shouldn't have done. But I have overall say this winter and there won't be a tour selection committee, as has been the case in the past."

Illingworth's working relationship with captain Mike Atherton has not always been ideal during its 18 months of

**ROBIN SMITH**  
Squaring up to the test of his life  
Page 26

operation, but the 63-year-old Yorkshireman suggested there would be no change in his attitude. "I'll be picking the teams and chatting to Atherton from time to time," he said.

But, Illingworth added, there was mutual respect between him and his captain. "I'm prepared to take Mike's thoughts

on board. He's good. He makes a lot of sensible comments. We'll work together. I'll write down the team I think we should play. Mike will put down what he thinks and there'll probably be an odd position we'll argue over."

While Illingworth continues to insist this will be his only winter in charge, he added: "Although my contract ends after the World Cup, I would like to do another summer if things go all right and people are happy with me."

"I wasn't unhappy with our 2-2 draw against West Indies but I will be very disappointed if we don't win the Test series in South Africa. The players have backed me and the captain over the last six months by putting in some hard work. If they keep putting in 100 per cent they've got nothing to fear from me."

Face to face with Robin Smith, page 26

## Teesside welcome for Juninho

**Football**

After a 14-hour three-legged trip from São Paulo, Juninho eventually landed at Teesside airport yesterday to be greeted by supporters decked out in Brazilian shirts and waving banners written in his native Portuguese. It was a welcome that not even this 22-year-old could have expected.

Obviously enjoying the excitement his signing has generated, the beaming Juninho asked: "What's all the fuss about, has someone stolen the Crown Jewels?"

Juninho touched down in

Teesside at 11am yesterday, having flown by private jet from Heathrow accompanied by his father. In a message to the Middlesbrough fans, he said: "I can't wait to start playing. I'll do my best and hopefully help the team to win the Premiership."

The Brazilian international then climbed into a club Jaguar and was driven to Middlesbrough to undergo a medical. The club are hoping Juninho's work permit comes through next week, allowing to make his debut against his manager Bryan Robson's old club, Manchester United, at Old Trafford on Saturday week.

Supporters eager to watch

Juninho continued to queue in their hundreds yesterday trying to snap up the last of the 21,500 season tickets for the stadium which has a 30,000 capacity.

Manchester City have taken the 24-year-old Celtic defender, Mark McNally, on trial. Steve Wicks has been sacked at Lincoln City - after only 41 days in charge - to make way for John Beck to take over as the manager of the Third Division club.

David Kohler, the Luton chairman and managing director, has put the First Division club up for sale. The asking price is believed to be £3m.

Wetherall's progress, page 27

## COULD YOU GET TEN SOLDIERS ACROSS AFRICA, NOT JUST TEN ACROSS?

Could you solve the real life problems that can face Army Officers every day?

Could you set up or rebuild a hospital in Africa? If you think that you could, then try to solve answers in our little quiz.

To apply as an Officer you should be aged 18-24, ideally with A-levels or a degree. For more details post this 'quiz' to Army Officer Entry, Freeport 4336, Units 2422, Bristol BS1 3YX or phone 0453 300 111 quoting ref 2422. The Army is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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